

SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 27th Year
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Wisconsin QSO Party 1996: from the Crew of N9KS/M



Ken, N9KS (left), and Jack, N9EZ, getting the mobile ready for the contest. The sign on the back probably prevented being stopped by traffic police; it says "Ham Radio Contest Car."

- Photos courtesy Ken Secora/N9KS



The antenna system may have looked bad, but it worked great. The 2 meter J pole is on the left, 40M top hat in the center, and the Hustler whip for 75 is on the right. The journey's length is revealed by the collection of dirt and salt on the van's rear end in this photo, taken post-contest.

The 1996 WQP was one of the best contests to date. There were more mobiles on the road and many, many more home stations helping them along the way. Band conditions seemed much better than past years.

Jack, N9EZ, was the 40 CW operator in the back of the van. He used a Kenwood 440 to a home brew antenna of sorts. It was a standard Hustler whip with a 20 meter coil along with a 36" top hat. That put the signal right on 7.040 MHz. It worked very well, as Jack made 350 cw contacts and reported a lot of "pile-ups".

Ken, N9KS, was up front operating a Kenwood 690 on 75 phone and 6 meter CW. A Hustler whip was used on the low bands and a Larsen mag mount for 6 meters. On 2 meters, an 8 foot J-pole antenna was put to use. The activity on 2 meters was so heavy that, at times, two or three simplex frequencies were total QRM. Ken had over 300 contacts on phone.

The driver was Karole, Ken's wife. She powered her way through the 315-mile trip at an average speed of 45 mph. Not too bad for a Sunday afternoon drive. She did stay on the main roads this year as the so called short cuts are just too bumpy. The "plan" called for us to operate from 24 counties. A few delays waiting to get the minimum of 15 contacts per county cut our plan down to 22 counties this time.

The QSO points and multipliers, plus the added bonus points, pushed our total to a little over 75,000. Not too bad for a couple of old guys out for a Sunday ride.

Thanks to all the stations that "rode along" with us for the seven hours. We will be looking for you again next year in ham radio's BEST contest.

73, Ken, Jack and Karole

The official results of the 1996 Wisconsin QSO Party will be published in the July issue of *Badger State Smoke Signals*.

Wisconsin PRB-1 Update: See Page 4

ON THE INSIDE

What's Happening: Edited by Ken Ebner, K9EN	2
Wisconsin Nets Association	4, 10
Here and There	5
The Computer Corner: By Dr. Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR	6
Another Happy Customer	7
Ask Elmer	7
New Products	7
Show Business: Jan's Been Part of it All	8
Worked All Wisconsin Counties Award Rules and Criteria	8
Correspondence: Near Space Sciences Pulls out of Rocket Launch Project	9
Riverland Amateur Radio Club	10
Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club	10
Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club	10
Mancorad Radio Club	11
Washington County Amateur Radio Club	11
Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162	11
Racine Megacycle Club	12
Watts Snoo (Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs at UW-Stevens Point)	12
Red Cedar Repeater Association	13
Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club	13
Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association (WAPR)	14
Weyauvega Wrapup: Final Details - and Thanks	15
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club	15



WHAT'S HAPPENING

✕ Swapfests and Other Social Events ✕ Club Meetings
✕ Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

EDITED BY KENNETH A. EBNER, K9EN, 822 WAUONA TRAIL, PORTAGE, WI 53901

Swapfests and Other Social Events

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1996. Swapfest '96, Superior, WI. Head of the Lakes Fairgrounds, Multi Purpose Bldg., 4700 S. Tower Ave (Hwy. 35), Superior, WI. Contact George Mead, KA0BUM, 4152 Ugstad Rd., Duluth, MN 55811-3620 (218) 729-6882.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1996. 18th Annual Cedarburg Swapfest, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Circle-B Recreation Center, Highway 60 and County I (20 miles North of Milwaukee, West of Grafton). Contact: Ozaukee Radio Club Swapfest Chairman, W58 N985 Essex Drive, Cedarburg WI 53012-1439. Telephone (414) 377-2784 or (414) 284-3271.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1996. Lakeshore Hamfest and Computer Swapfest, sponsored by the ManCorad Club. Held at the Manitowoc County Expo, intersection of Hwys 42/151 and I-43 on Cty Hwy R. ARRL VEC Exams will be held at Silver Lake College, nearby, and DXCC QSL Field Checking will be available by the Northeast Wisconsin DX Assn. Contact Glenn, AA9MT (414) 684-7096 or Red, N9GHE, (414) 684-9097 (nights) or write to ManCoRad, P.O. Box 204, Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204.

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 1996. Kankakee Area Radio Society Hamfest 96. Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL.

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1996. Electronic Symposium Tradefest, at the Fairgrounds-Boyer Hall, 1212 East Quarry St. Maquoketa, IA. Contact: Rodger Gorzney, ND9WY, phone (319) 242-9486, fax (319) 242-2776.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 1996. Adams County ARC Spring Hamfest, Adams County Fairgrounds, Friendship, WI. West of Highway 13 on County Highway J. Contact: Adams County ARC, PO Box 232, Friendship, WI. Phone (608) 564-7887. Packet N9TD-1 on 145.03.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1996. Princeton Hamfest/Computer Show. Bureau County Fairgrounds in Princeton, IL.

Sponsored by the Starved Rock Radio Club. Contact Bruce Burton, KU9A or Debbie Burton, N9DRU, 1153 Union St., Marseilles, IL 61341-1710. (815) 795-2201.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 1996. CWRA Swapfest, UW-Stevens Point Student Center, U.W. Stevens Point, WI. FCC exams, fox hunt, free parking, commercial dealers, food and refreshments. Contact: John Kalina, KA9DJA, 1240 North Point Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54481. (715) 344-1407.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 1996. Cook County Hamfest at Santa Fee Park, 91st and Wolf Road, McHenry County Fairgrounds, Woodstock, IL.

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1996. South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest, Legion Post, Oak Creek, WI.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 1996. Six Meter Club of Chicago Hamfest at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd. (North of Roosevelt rd., Rte. 38, East of County Farm Rd.) Wheaton, IL. Contact: (708) 442-4961.

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1996. South Milwaukee ARC Swapfest. American Legion Post 434, Oak Creek, WI. Contact (414) 762-3235.

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1996. Eau Claire ARC Swapfest, New Location: Eau Claire County Fairgrounds, intersection of Highways 93 and I-94, Eau Claire, WI. Contact: Carol Ceraso, (717) 723-9205 or Liz Searing, (715) 834-1303. P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54701.

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1996. 1996 Rockford hamfest, New date and Location. Winnebago County Fairgrounds, Pecatonica, IL. Also check the steam engine show at nearby Freeport Fairgrounds. Contact: Rockford ARA, PO Box 8456, Rockford, IL 61126-8465. Marsha Plasters (815) 399-9233 or Diana White (815) 645-8545.

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1996. RACINE HAMFEST 96, South Hill Country Club I-94, East Frontage Road between Highways 20 and K. Contact: RMC, P.O. Box 3, Racine, WI 53401. **SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 1996.** The Marshfield Area Amateur Radio Society will be holding their 5th annual picnic. Gather around 11:00 a.m. Potluck, Swapfest. In Wildwood Park, Marshfield, WI. Talk in on 147.180. All welcome. Contact: Guy A. Boucher,

KF9XX, 107 West Third St., Marshfield, WI 54449. (715) 384-4323. Packet:KF9XX @ W9IHW.WI.USA.NA.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1996. Northwoods Hamfest, Sugar Camp Town Hall, Highway 17 12 miles north of Rhinelander, WI. Contact: Mary Berger, NS9Q, 367 Lois St., Rhinelander, WI 54501. (715) 362-9296.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1996. Swapfest sponsored by C.A.R.S. at Crystal Ridge Ski Lodge, 76th Street and Loomis Road (Hwy 36), Franklin, WI. Contact C.A.R.S., P.O. Box 325, Franksville, WI 53126-0325, or call Mike N9OEZ at (414) 325-7427.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 1996. DuPage ARC Hamfest Computer Show. Hawthorne Race Course, 3500 South Cicero Ave., Stickney, IL. Contact DARC Hamfest 96, 7511 Walnut Ave., Woodridge, IL 60517.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1996. Hamfest & Computer Expo, Omni Center, Onalaska, WI. 2 1/2 miles north of LaCrosse on Highway 35. Contact: Dick Low, KOJYB, 1520 Namomis Ave., La Crosse, WI 54603. (608) 784-9176.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 1996. Woodstock '96 Hamfest. McHenry County Fairgrounds, Woodstock, IL. Contact: voice/fax (847) 658-1678. e-mail tcrqinc@aol.com.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 1996. Hamfest Radiofest Computer Expo, Dubuque County Fairgrounds, Dubuque, IA. Contact: GRARC, PO Box 546, Dubuque, IA 52004, or Loren Heber, (319) 556-5755, Jerry Lange, (319) 556-3050 or Jerry Ehlers, 583-1016. e-mail sheber@mwci.net.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1996. Bolingbrook ARS Hamfest 96, Inwood Recreation Center, 3000 W. Jefferson ST. (Rt. 52), Joliet, IL. Contact: BARS Hotline at (708) 759-7005 between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 13, 14, 15, 1996. ARRL National Convention at Superfest 96, Peoria Civic Center, Peoria IL. For exhibition information contact: R & B Productions, 7150 University ST., Peoria, IL 61614 (309) 693-9667. Fax: (309) 693-3465. For general information contact: Peoria Area ARC, PO Box 3508, Peoria, IL 61612-3508. Ron Morgan, KB9NW, General Chairman, (309) 692-FEST. E-Mail: Superfest@AOL.com.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1996. Dane County ARES Early Autumn Swapfest, Madison, WI. At Fast Forward Roller Skating and Skate Shop, 4649 Verona Road, (Hwy 151/18). Contact Dane County ARES, Inc., 810 Vernon Ave., Apt 4, Madison, WI 53714. (608) 222-3444.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1996. Kettle Moraine Radio Amateurs 1996 Computer Fair and Hamfest. Waukesha County Exposition Center in the Forum Building, Highways J and FT in Waukesha, WI. Contact KMRA Swapfest, PO Box 411, Waukesha, WI 53187-0411. Or call Ron at (414) 547-2219 or Andy at 549-0393.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1996. Hamfest Minnesota & Computer Expo. St. Paul Civic Center, St. Paul MN. Contact: PO Box 5598, Hopkins, MN 55343. (612) 535-0637.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1996. Fox Cities Hamfest, Starlite Club, Hwy 55, North of Kaukana, WI. Contact: Chad Pennings, N9PRC, 318 E. Brewster ST., Appleton, WI 54911. (414) 954-1229. **SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 1997.** West Allis ARC, 25th Annual Midwinter Swapfest. Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. Contact: WARAC Swapfest, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1997. SEWFARS SWAPFEST, Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha, WI. Contact: SEWFARS, P.O. Box 102, Delafield, WI 53018. (414) 650-0724.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 1997. Tri-County ARC Hamfest at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Activity Center, Hwy. 18 West, Jefferson, WI. Contact: TCARC, W9MQB, 711 East St., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538. (414) 563-6502 evenings.

See also the back page and flyer ads for additional information on many of these events.

As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our advertising pages. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.

Badger State Smoke Signals

**Amateur Radio
Education and Information**

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Subscriptions

1 year	(12 issues)	\$12.00
2 years	(24 issues - save \$2.00)	\$22.00
3 years	(36 issues - save \$4.00)	\$32.00

Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebner, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1.

The only exception is for participating clubs. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 9th of that

month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections should be sent to Ken Ebner.

Editorial material, photographs, feature articles, display ads, and exchange papers should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebner.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebner.

Swapfest ads should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Jim Decker.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. **THIS CREDIT IS MANDATORY, AND NO MATERIAL MAY BE PRINTED OR POSTED UNLESS IT IS GIVEN.** This newspaper is produced by volunteer Radio Amateurs, and is non-profit. This newspaper is mailed from Portage, WI 53901. *Badger State Smoke Signals* is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

Club Meetings



Due to space limitations, we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. Please see the November 1995 meetings column for the latest complete listing. The following are additions or changes since that listing.

FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC

The Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. meets the last Wednesday of the month at the Bank One building in Germantown, WI at Pilgrim and Mequon Roads. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. !!GUESTS ARE WELCOME!!

YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (BARABOO)

Days rotate: The meeting dates for 1996 are May 15, Jun 13, Jul 16, Aug 14, Sep 12, Oct 15, Nov 13, with the Holiday party scheduled for Friday December 13, 1996. All meetings will be at the Baraboo Civic Center, room 14, unless otherwise noted. Starting time for the monthly club meeting is 7:30 p.m.. The program start time after the meeting is 8:00 p.m., with a one hour limit.

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

May 04, 1996	Pewaukee, WI
May 04, 1996	Racine, WI
May 04, 1996	Milwaukee, WI (BADGER)
	Ozaukee Swapfest
May 04, 1996	Oshkosh, WI
May 04, 1996	St. Paul, MN
May 09, 1996	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
May 11, 1996	Manitowoc, WI
	Lakeshore Hamfest
May 11, 1996	Madison, WI
May 11, 1996	Red Granite, WI
May 11, 1996	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
May 11, 1996	Bloomington, MN
May 14, 1996	Apple Valley, MN
May 18, 1996	Loves Park, IL
May 25, 1996	Wauwatosa, WI (MRAC)
May 25, 1996	Tomahawk, WI
May 25, 1996	Onalaska, WI
June 01, 1996	Pewaukee, WI
June 01, 1996	Racine, WI
June 01, 1996	Oshkosh, WI
June 01, 1996	St. Paul, MN
June 08, 1996	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
June 08, 1996	Madison, WI
June 08, 1996	Red Granite, WI
June 08, 1996	Bloomington, MN
June 08, 1996	Blaine, MN
June 09, 1996	Stevens Point, WI
	Swapfest
June 13, 1996	Apple Valley, MN
June 15, 1996	Appleton, WI
June 15, 1996	Loves Park, IL
June 15, 1996	Cottage Grove, MN
June 18, 1996	Eden Prairie, MN
June 19, 1996	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
June 29, 1996	Wauwatosa, WI (MRAC)
June 29, 1996	Tomahawk, WI
June 29, 1996	Redgranite, WI
July 06, 1996	Oshkosh, WI
July 06, 1996	St. Paul, MN
July 11, 1996	Apple Valley, MN
July 13, 1996	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
July 13, 1996	Madison, WI
July 13, 1996	Red Granite, WI
July 13, 1996	Bloomington, MN
July 13, 1996	Blaine, MN
July 16, 1996	Eden Prairie, MN
July 17, 1996	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
July 20, 1996	Loves Park, IL
July 20, 1996	Cottage Grove, MN
July 27, 1996	Eau Claire, WI
	Swapfest
July 27, 1996	Wauwatosa, WI (MRAC)
July 27, 1996	Tomahawk, WI
July 27, 1996	Rockford, IL
	Hamfest
August 3, 1996	Pewaukee, WI
August 17, 1996	Rhineland, WI
	Northwoods Hamfest
August 17, 1996	Franklin, WI
	CARS Swapfest
August 24, 1996	Onalaska, WI
	Riverland Hamfest
September 14, 1996	Appleton, WI
September 21, 1996	Onalaska, WI
October 13, 1996	Waukesha, WI

October 21, 1996 KMRA Hamfest
November 2, 1996 Redgranite, WI
November 2, 1996 Menomonee, WI
November 3, 1996 Kaukauna, WI
November 3, 1996 Fox Cities Swapfest
November 3, 1996 Marshfield, WI
November 30, 1996 Onalaska, WI
November 30, 1996 Racine, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat. (except January, July & August)
Monthly, 1st Sat. Oshkosh, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat. St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu. Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Madison, WI
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Red Granite, WI
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Bloomington, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Blaine, MN
Monthly, 3rd Tue. Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 3rd Wed. Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
Monthly, 3rd Sat. Loves Park, IL
Monthly, 3rd Sat. Cottage Grove, MN
Monthly, 3rd Sat. Wauwatosa, WI (MRAC)
(except December)
Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)
Quarterly Marshfield, WI
(Second Saturday every third month.)

GENERAL RULES

FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors in the event there are changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.

Some examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL. Send a 32c/ SASE if you request one from the ARRL. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$6.05 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE or CSCE to the VEC. You must also have two good copies of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 610 and most VEC want a copy for their records. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.

Additional information is given below.

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB (MRAC/VEC) OAK CREEK, WI

SECOND SATURDAY DATE: 1:00 p.m. at Wauwatosa Savings Bank, 6560 S. 27th St., Oak Creek, WI.

THIRD WEDNESDAY DATES: At 6:30 p.m. at Village at Manor Park, (was Methodist Manor) 3023 S 84th St., (84th & Oklahoma) Milwaukee, WI.

LAST SATURDAY DATES: (except December): 9:00 a.m. at 7500 W. State St., Wauwatosa S&L, lower level, Wauwatosa, WI.

For Additional Information Contact: Jack Krause, (414) 774-6999 or call (414) 466-HAMS (Answering Machine) or write Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, PO Box 25707, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

Bring along your ORIGINAL license, CSCE and two (2) good quality photocopies, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$5.00 for the exam fee. WALK-INS are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card: print the grade of license you are applying for, and your name, address, and telephone number. Send the card to MRAC/VEC, at the addresses shown above.

BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE

To register in advance, send a post card with your name, test or tests you wish to take, date you wish to take., your call sign, address and telephone number to Badger Examiners, Gary J. Sharbuno, WI9M, 5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53223. Telephone (414) 355-0237.

MADISON, WI

VE exams are held in Madison every second Saturday morning of the month at 8 a.m. They are held at the operations building of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District at 1610 Moorland Rd. To get there take the Beltline (Hwy 12 & 18) to South Towne Drive. Go south 8/10 mile till South Towne Drive makes a bend and becomes Moorland Rd. and enter at gate.

You should bring a picture ID, your original licence and a copy of your licence. For exams beyond the novice tests, bring a check for \$5.90, made out to the ARRL/VEC. If the special 610 form with the medical exemption is required, contact me beforehand to obtain one. No appointments are necessary to take

exams. For further questions, please leave a message on the mailbox or phone me at (608) 832-6631.

Mark Jenks, N29B

RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August.

Monthly exams are given 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted.

Talk in on 147.87/.27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert N. Jensen, W0WLN, 5616 Cambridge lane #6, Racine, WI. Telephone (414) 886-8551.

TOMAHAWK, WI

Last Saturday of every month. Jan. thru Oct.

Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No preregistration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testings starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633.

STEVENS POINT, WI

Contact: Joe Larson, N9JW. (715) 344-1182.

APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC

MANITOWOC, WI (HAMFEST)

KAUKAUNA, WI (HAMFEST)

Conducted by the Fox Cities ARC VE team. All test session in Appleton are held at James Madison Jr. High, 2020 S. Carpenter Street. Candidates check in between 8 and 9 a.m. with testing starting at 9 a.m. No walk-ins after 9 a.m. Contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (414) 730-0967, or Larry Siebers, KD9IA (414) 730-0967.

REDGRANITE, WI (W5YI and ARRL VEC)

Test sessions are held in Redgranite on the second Saturday of each month, at the Civic Center 202 Pine River Road, just off highway 21. Talk in on the 145.210 repeater, no tone at this time. Test begin at 0900. Breakfast meeting at the "Curve Inn" restaurant on highway 21, east of downtown. All amateurs welcome. Recommend calling to verify test session, or ask on the 145.210 repeater. Bring copies of your CSCE's and original license. Also two forms of identification. Call Terry Witt, at (414) 685-5018 or write Ivy Lane, Berlin, WI-549-23.

OSHKOSH (OMRO)

The Oshkosh VE Team will administer Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon at the Omro City Hall. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Walk-ins OK. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then session will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, KB9FA, a (414) 235-0987, or write Dick at 826 Jeffersa Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

ONALASKA, WI

On behalf of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club' VE team and Bill Wood, KE9XQ team Chairman, we announce the amateur radio exam schedule for 1996. The sessions will be held at 7 O'clock P.M. at the Onalaska Community Center, 515 Quincy Street in Onalaska WI:

Saturday, May 25th; Saturday, September 21st and Saturday, November 30th.

There will be sessions conducted Friday, August 23rd and Saturday, August 24th at 8 O'clock A.M. at the Onalaska OMNI Center at 7 O'clock P.M. The OMNI Center is located on Riders Club Street in Onalaska WI. These tests are in concurrence with Hamfest Computer Expo, and Antique Radio Show held on Saturday, August 24th at the Onalaska OMNI Center.

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiner Team is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League. The team is field-stocked, and walk-in candidates are welcome. The team does appreciate advance registration, especially for license exam for the General, Advanced, and Extra classes. We will allow a re-test on a time available basis, provided second exam fee is paid. We use multiple choice format answers for the Morse Code exams.

For further information or to pre-register for an exam session, please call Bill Wood, KE9XQ at (608) 788-8571. You may also contact Karl Simonson, KB9EQ at (608) 526-9413 or via packet:

KB9EQI@AA9AW.EN43KM.WI.USA.NA

(continued on page 15)

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Jim Merrill, W9AYK, Secretary • W283 Hillendale Drive • Oconomowoc, WI 53066

SECTION MANAGER'S NOTES



Richard R. Regent, K9GDF
5003 South 26th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221



Field Day is June 22 and 23 (always the *fourth* full weekend in June), send either WB9SMM, SEC, or me a FD message and get bonus points. Invite newspaper, radio and other media to observe your club activities on Field Day.

June 1, Adams County RA Spring Hamfest in Friendship.

Then on June 9, Central Wisconsin RA Swapfest University Center Stevens Point and will include the Wisconsin Nets Association meeting.

Give the Wisconsin Novice Net a try, 3.723 MHz daily at 6:00 p.m.

Let me know if you would like a free list of Wisconsin's 128 nets or 163 clubs.

New officers Tri-County ARC: pres N9DTT, vp AA9IK, secy N9DTV, treas N9PGY.

New officers QCWA Chapter 55: ch W9RYA, vch W9NZF, secy W9JK, treas W9RZW with oldtimers get-together meeting June 8 in Waupaca.

New ManCoRad Club officers: pres N9GHE,

Wisconsin Nets

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Mgr.
BWN	Yes	3985	1100	0600	W9AYK
BEN	Yes	3985	1700	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2230	1730	K9UTQ
WNN	Yes	3723	2300	1800	N9MXW
WSSN	Yes	3645	2330	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0000	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0300	2200	W9UW
NWTN	Yes	34/94	2330	1830	NS9Q
(Rhineland area)					
RCRA	No	01/61	2330	1830	KA9OMC
(Mondays CST) (Menomonee Area)					
Gr. Bay	No	72/12	0145	2045	WB9NRK
(Green Bay Area)					
ARES	No	4.65/5.25	0100	2000	
(South East/South Central Wisconsin)					
RACES	No	3993.5	1300	0800	WA9OAY
(LSB Sunday)					

vp N9QFY, secy NZ9Z, treas AA9MT.

Exams: June 1 Pewaukee, Racine, Oshkosh; June 8 Madison, Redgranite; June 15 Appleton; June 20 West Allis; June 29 Tomahawk, Wauwatosa, Redgranite.

Sorry to report Silent Keys W0KMT of Iron River and W9DMI of South Milwaukee.

Thought of the month: *The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.* □

Hams' Help Needed Now to Make PRB-1 Wisconsin Law

PRB-1 is codified as federal law in Part 97.15(e). It reads: "... a station antenna structure may be erected at heights and dimensions sufficient to accommodate amateur service communications. State and local regulation of a station antenna structure must not preclude amateur service communications. Rather, it must reasonably accommodate such communications and must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the state or local authority's legitimate purpose."

Rep. Ben Brancel (R-Endeavor) and Sen. Richard Grobschmidt (D-Milwaukee) have introduced legislation codifying PRB-1 into Wisconsin law. The numbers on these COMPANION bills are Assembly Bill 900 and Senate Bill 544.

THE GOOD NEWS: SB 544 has passed the Senate and is in the Assembly's Rules Committee, and is expected to be scheduled for the May floor period in the Assembly (see update below), then sent to the Governor for action.

Only a short May floor period remains, starting May 7. In order for bills to become law this session, action in BOTH houses will need to be finished by the end of the May floor period.

Also, the customary bill disposal joint resolution passed both houses. This is an end-of-session, house keeping measure, which limits introduction of new legislation, and automatically disposes [of] certain bills. Bills that have not passed through a house automatically fail as of March 28, 1996. Thus, the Assembly Bill, SB 900, is dead. **However, the Assembly can vote on SB 544, since the bills are companion bills with identical language.**

The Senate bill codifying PRB-1, SB 544, did pass the Senate on a voice vote after a committee hearing. The committee sent it to the Senate for a vote by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Mack Brophy, N9NTB, provided testimony in support of SB 544 at the hearing. John Leekley, WB9SMM, Wisconsin SEC, signed in favor of SB 544 at the hearing, but was provided an incorrect time for the hearing, and so did not have the opportunity to testify.

Rep. Scott Jensen, Chair of the Rules Committee, says, "This bill will be brought to the floor of the State Assembly before the 1996-1996 legislative session concludes. I look forward to scheduling this legislation during the first two weeks in May.. I hope to schedule this pronto. I am a strong sponsor."

Radio amateurs should contact their State Representatives to encourage them to support SB 544 in the Assembly for a vote. If you do not know who your Representative is, call your local center of government (village or city clerk, county clerk, etc.). You may also call the Legislative Hotline toll-free at (800) 362-9472. Rep. Jensen's telephone number is (608) 266-2401. His capitol mailing address is P. O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708.

Contact your State Representative NOW, and ask him or her to support SB 544 if you favor this bill. Time grows short.

Cosmonauts Get a Guest



Joining her new cosmonaut crew mates, Shannon W. Lucid joins in an inventory of new food supplies in the base block module of Russia's Mir Space Station. Yuriy I. Onufriyenko, Mir-21 mission commander, is in the foreground, with Yuriy V. Usachov, flight engineer in the background. When this photo was taken, Mir was still docked with the Space Shuttle Atlantis. Lucid will be aboard Mir for four months, and the Russians have approved her use of the Mir radio in 2 meters, with the call sign R0MIR. Look for her on 145.55 MHz FM simplex. Dave Larsen, N6JLH, is now the U.S. manager only for current R0MIR and R0MIR-1 contacts. QSLs must include date, time and mode. For contacts with the Mir packet radio personal message system, include the message number issued by the PMS on the QSL card. (A green stamp" to cover postage also would be appreciated. QSLs should be sent to: N6JLH, P.O. Box 1501, Pine Grove, CA. QSLs for previous Mir contacts may be sent to: RV3DR, Chief of Cosmonaut Amateur Radio Department, NPO Energia, P.O. 141070, Box 73, Kaliningrad, 10 City, Moscow Area, Russia.

- AMSAT SAREX bulletin, *Space News*, in *The ARRL Letter*, 2/14/96
Additional information from and photo by NASA

Correction

In the April issue, identifications were out of sequence in the bottom right photo on page 7. The correct IDs are, left to right: Bryon Tetzlaff, N9RQF; Wisconsin Emergency Government Director Al Shanks; Paul Toussaint, N9V-WH; and Al Jeardeau, WB9BRF. We apologize for the error.

- Editor

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Saturday, June 1, 1996

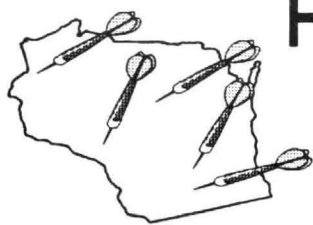
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Packet: N9TD-1 on 145.03



HERE and THERE

44th Annual W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet Set

The W9DXCC Convention and Banquet (a must for DXers from everywhere) will be Saturday, September 7, 1996, at the Holiday Inn in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. There will be interesting programs, guest DX speakers, industry representatives, contests, exhibits, QSL checking, hospitality suites, banquet activities, and prizes, prizes, prizes! For info contact: NIDXA or Chairman - Phil Camera, KB9CRY, Ph. (708) 343-1696, FAX (708) 343-4394, e-mail lphil@aol.com.

Northern Illinois DX Association - 3/96
(Forwarded to BSSS by WA9POV on Internet)

FCC Okays Olympic Call Signs for Hams Operating in Georgia

Hams operating within the state of Georgia may use special call signs from April 15 until August 31, 1996, to commemorate the 1996 Olympics, under a Special Temporary Authority issued by the FCC. Here's how it works: An FCC-licensed radio amateur operating in Georgia with a "4" in his or her call sign may replace that number with "96" (representing the year) or "26" (commemorating the 26th Olympiad) during the period of the STA. Hams with any number in their call signs and operating within the State of Georgia may add "00" to the existing number (to mark the centennial year of the Olympic Games). So, WA4BKD in Georgia also could identify as WA96BKD, WA26BKD or WA400BKD, while NG3K, when operating in Georgia, could identify only as NG300K or as NG3K. The Olympics start in July. The STA stemmed from an initiative by James Altman, N4UCK, of Atlanta and the Georgia Amateur Radio Operators Group he organized, with the support of ARRL.

- The ARRL Letter, 4/12/96

FCC: Interference Problems Often Start at the Factory

The FCC says it cannot resolve most of the thousands of complaints of interference to TVs, radios, stereos and televisions "because the cause of this interference is the design or construction of these products and not a violation of any FCC rule." The FCC points out that basic consumer information concerning interference solutions now is available on the Internet through the FCC Compliance and Information Bureau's home page at

The list also is available through the Commission's Fax on Demand service at 202-418-2830. Request document 6904.

The basic information includes the CIB Interference Handbook and the CIB Telephone Interference Bulletin, among others. The Telephone Interference Bulletin states: "Interference occurs when your telephone instrument fails to 'block out' a nearby radio communication. Potential interference problems begin when the telephone is built at the factory." The Interference Handbook includes a list of equipment manufacturers who provide specific assistance with interference problems. "Involving dealers and manufacturers in the resolution process should give them knowledge of the problems and provide both the opportunity and incentive to protect their products through customer service," the FCC said in a recent Public Notice.

The Commission emphasized, however, that its Compliance and Information Bureau "will continue to take appropriate enforcement action where it has been determined that the interference is caused by violations of the Communications Act or the Commission's rules or policies."

--FCC

- The ARRL Letter, 4/12/96

Ol' Sol Maintains a Spotless Reputation

From solar observer Tad Cook, KT7H, in Seattle, Washington, comes the now-familiar word that solar activity remains very low. The sunspot count was zero on March 30 and 31. Over the next few weeks, Cook says we can expect solar flux to remain near 70, with possible mild geomagnetic disturbances centered around April 17. On the air, 20 meters should be the best daytime band, but solar activity is expected to be too low to sustain much propagation on 15 meters or above. For

On the Lighter Side

By Bob Beasley, K6BJH



ALLRIGHT, MR. OHM, WE'LL NAME THE UNIT OF ELECTRICAL RESISTANCE AFTER YOU---NOW WHAT SHALL WE USE FOR A SYMBOL?

worldwide communication at night, 40 meters is the top choice, but the low solar activity makes this the best time of the solar cycle for 160 meters, too.

The latest projections, based on current conditions and previous solar cycles, suggest that we will be at the sunspot number minimum for the next few months. The minimum is centered around

Please turn to page 9

Fifth-Grade Students Trained for Simulated Space Shuttle "Mission Eau Claire"



Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), in conjunction with the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club, conducted a ten-week training course for Mission Eau Claire. The class was comprised of fifth grade students from the Eau Claire School System. Twenty of the students passed the Technician class examination. These students will be providing communications for the Mission Eau Claire Space Shuttle Project, scheduled for April 30 through May 10. The instructors were Tim McCuaghy, KB9JOE; Steve Bluem, KA9OMY; Jon Case, KE9KW; Rod Steele, N9WJY; and Bob Knutson, W9BUG.

- Story and photo courtesy of Jim Staatz/WB9RBP

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May 1996

The Computer



By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR

105 Martin Drive

Port Washington, WI 53074-9654

(414) 284-9346

WB9RQR @ N9PBY.EN63BI.WI.USA.NA

SKAPLAN @ POST.ITS.MCW.EDU

No. 31: KEYBOARD KINDNESS

Voice commands will soon be the way we provide instructions to our computers, but at present, the keyboard is our main tool for this activity. Although we give them a lot of abuse, they are amazingly reliable. We pound on them, for that is the way they work. But we also drop food particles, hair and dust on them, then cement these into a stick mass with spilled coffee, coke and other yucky liquids. I have seen keyboards that would supply a family of mice with food for three days, including desserts.

Most often, keyboards continue to work on, undaunted, notwithstanding the mess between the keys. But now and then they act up, or rather, they refuse to act, when one or two specific keys are pressed. When that happens, most people throw them out and replace them with a new one. After all, they are not very expensive, ranging from about \$20 to \$90. On the other hand, if they can be repaired (and they can), this saves money and space in the landfill. The repair also saves you the trouble of getting used to a new keyboard, when that old one felt just right. So this article will tell you how to disassemble and clean one. If you are successful, it will save you the cost of this publication, at least. If not, you can always go ahead and buy a new

First, some background. Keyboards are not all the same. There are basically two kinds. Most original keyboards that came with XT's will only work with XT's. Most original keyboards that came with AT's (286 and higher) will only work with AT's. If you plug one of these AT keyboards into an XT, the computer will complain when you boot it up. Similarly, an XT keyboard plugged into an AT will invoke cuss words on the AT's screen (not really, but it will beep at you and send you error messages).

Having said that, there is a third type that will work with either an XT or AT. Some "smart" keyboards will simply autodetect the type of computer it is hooked to, and then it will configure itself appropriately. Others have dip switches on the bottom (turn yours over and look). You flip the switches in one position for an XT, and the other position for an AT. Some of these have another position for autodetect, usually labeled AUTO near the switch. Unless a switch is present, it is hard to tell the difference between the AT and XT keyboard, unless you have a fair amount of experience. At a swapfest, you either have to ask, or guess.

On to the maintenance. The aim is to remove all the keycaps, or at least most of them, so that you can clean underneath. Now, there are at least 88 keycaps, and Murphy's Law of Keyboards says you will surely mix them up when putting them back. So, the first step is to make a map.

Draw your keyboard, using little squares for each character. Label each character. Note that the square for the letter E is above and slightly to the left of the letter D. Be sure to make the map reasonably accurate. Make that map on paper; do NOT make marks on the plastic around the keys. You are going to clean that plastic thoroughly, so any marks will disappear! Next, carefully grasp the G key and pull straight up. Use a small screwdriver or other tool to help, but be sure that you don't pry sideways, or you may break off plastic tabs. The key or

underneath. Lay these aside and go to the kitchen.

In the kitchen, find a large, deep bowl or similar container. A 2 liter plastic soda container or milk jug with the top cut off makes a perfect container. Also get a smaller bowl to hold the springs.

Go back to the computer and remove the rest of the regularly shaped keys. Don't remove the SHIFT, ALT, ENTER or other keys that are larger than the alphabetic keys, at least, not yet. Put the springs in the smaller dish, and the keys in the plastic container. DON'T LOOSE ANY SPRINGS. When you are all done, put a couple of generous squirts of dish soap in with the keys, and fill the container with hot water. Stir the mixture and let it soak. Make sure each key is fully submerged in the liquid.

Now, the real mess is exposed. See all that gunk on the tray under where the keys were? Get the vacuum cleaner and suck it all out, using a toothbrush or small, dry paint brush to loosen all the dirt. Use Q-tips moistened with water to clean anything sticky. Get it all out.

If you are motivated to also remove the special keys, go ahead, but be careful. They have metal hinges in addition to plastic tabs. The hinges are simply stiff U-shaped wires, with inward-projecting points that engage in holes in the bottom surface of the key. The space bar is always hinged in this way. Examine these carefully, so you can put them back correctly.

Now, flip the keyboard over and remove the 4 to 8 screws on the bottom. Remove the bottom cover, and you will likely find another 4 to 6 screws that hold the keyboard to the top cover. Remove these and disassemble the top cover from the keyboard mechanism proper. Be sure to note the position of that grounding wire so you can get it back correctly later. Also note how the cable is routed, so you can put it back where it belongs. Make a sketch at each stage of disassembly; it will save you hours later. Spend a little time in study the circuit board, and how it is all arranged.

Take the top and bottom covers down to the basement. Using generous squirts of dish detergent, wash them both thoroughly. Scrub any marks or blemishes. An old toothbrush works great for this.

Dry the covers and reassemble them, putting the circuit board back exactly where it was. Then stir the "keycap soup" for awhile, and rinse them thoroughly with lots of warm water. Spread them out on a towel to dry. When dry, pop each back in place, using your map to guide you. Plug the cable back into your computer, and test each key. They should be fine. Happy computing! □

Reprinted, by permission, from the ORC Newsletter, Ozaukee Radio Club, P.O. Box 13, Port Washington, Wisconsin 53074 (Skip Douglas, KA9DDN, Editor). □

Clarification:

The Computer Corner No. 30: Any Port in a Storm

Due to typesetter's carelessness (mine) and bad eyesight (mine again), the table of ports in Stan's April article was confusing. Columns were not set where they should have been. The table WAS in the correct place in the article. Please refer to the corrected table below and to the article in April BSSS. Thanks to Stan for calling the errors of my ways to my attention. - Editor

IRQ	XT	AT (286 and higher)
0	System timer	(same)
1	Keyboard	(same)
2	EGA display	Cascade to IRQ9
3	Serial port 2 and 4	(same)
4	Serial port 1 and 3	(same)
5	Hard drive	Printer 2
6	Floppy drive	(same)
7	Printer 1 (LPT)	(same)
8		CMOS Real Time Clock
9		Cascade from IRQ2
10		(available)
11		(available)
12		(available)
13		Math coprocessor
14		Hard drive
15		(available)

JUNE 1
1996

JUNE 1
1996

FIRST TIME EVER !! ACARC ANNOUNCES A SPRING HAMFEST



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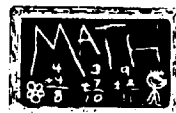
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By Richard Regent, K9GDF
Section Manager, Wisconsin Section ARRL

One of the duties of an ARRL Section Manager is to find technical help for Amateurs, no matter where they live in the Section. Newcomer Jason Hanson, N9LEA of urban Madison, wrote to me asking for information about HF antennas for apartment dwellers like himself.

First, fortunately there is a fresh QST article on apartment antennas, so I send Jason a copy. Next, I suggest that Jason contact Don Michalski, W9IXG (an Official Observer), or Scott Ellington, K9MA, who also live in Madison.

Then the helpfulness begins. Here's what occurred in Jason's own words: "After receiving your advice I made contact with Don via electronic mail. Within an hour, he and I were working through possible solutions to my problem. Don also enlisted the help of Scott, soon both of these knowledgeable gentlemen came to the conclusion that they would need to come to my QTH in order to make my system work.

"On Saturday, a few days later, Don and Scott came to my apartment where we spent most of the afternoon stringing magnet wire from my third floor apartment window to the adjacent tree.

"My power supply also had some problems. Scott and Don were literally able to fix a shorted transistor on my kitchen table!

"Don had brought along his old Johnson tuner for me to borrow so I could get on the air while I was waiting to order one. When the Johnson tuner would not match to my antenna, Don invited me to his place to borrow his quite new MFJ Versa-Tuner and a PL-259 jumper until mine arrived. The antenna tuned beautifully. I am nearly fully operational on all bands from 80-10 meters. I even managed to make about 25 contacts the other day, representing several nations.

"My only remaining problem is one of RF leaking into the power supply and affecting the crowbar circuitry. I am not worried, however, as Scott has volunteered to fix it this Thursday!

"I express my extreme gratitude at your suggestion to contact Don and Scott for help... and that they should be recognized for their tremendous efforts on behalf of a complete stranger. To dedicate the better part of a Saturday to getting a guy on the air is to be commended. Again, thank you for your time and attention to this matter."

Well Jason, many other people already recognize Don and Scott for their continual good works in Amateur Radio. That's why I recommended that you contact them. They're probably just as happy to have helped you. Good luck on the air, Jason.

Wisconsin needs more volunteers like Don and Scott. If you enjoy helping others and are an ARRL member, let me know. I'll appoint you as an ARRL Technical Specialist for your area and ARRL Headquarters will send you free *The Technical Coordinator*, a book I wrote on the subject. Thanks.



Ask Elmer

Q. How many Americans are browsing the Web?

A. There are about 7.5 million subscribers to on-line services. There are about 6 million on the World Wide Web in cyberspace according to some studies.

Q. Which Internet Web browsers are popular?

A. Netscape Communication's Navigator 2.0 (\$49 or free to Compuserve users) has about 75 percent of the market right now while Microsoft's Internet Explorer 2.0 (free) is a close second and they are diligently working overtime to improve market share. But perhaps we need to think how lucky we are just to be able to ask such questions, some poor countries don't even have phone lines.

Q. Are there any cheap Internet browsers?

A. Most of them are cheap, but here are four that are free: Microsoft Corp. Internet Explorer 2.0, <http://www.microsoft.com>; Net Manage WebSurfer 4.6, <http://www.netmanage.com>; Oracle Government Power Browser 1.0,

Realm 1.0, <http://www.portable.com>. Test the browsers to find the one that's right for you.

Q. What file loads itself into the AUTOEXEC.BAT file and then removes itself?

A. Other than a computer virus, it could be SIZER.EXE or CHKSTATE.SYS. MemMaker uses SIZER during the memory optimizing process to determine size, in memory, of device drivers and memory resident programs. It's automatically added to AUTOEXEC.BAT or CONFIG.SYS in order to determine the memory size. When MemMaker is finished, SIZER is removed. CHKSTATE is used by MemMaker to track the optimization process, it is added to the beginning of CONFIG.SYS file and then (usually) is automatically removed.

Q. What is HTML?

A. Hypertext Markup Language is the simple programming language used on the Web. A browser reads an HTML document and interprets the content to then put the proper text formatting, graphics and colors on the monitor screen.

Do you have a question or a problem? Ask Elmer! Send your questions (no telephone calls, please) to "Ask Elmer," 5003 South 26th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221. □

Bill Seeks Protection for Volunteer Examiners

Rep. Bill Baker (R-California) has introduced a bill to protect ham volunteers in the Volunteer Examination program and the Amateur Auxiliary of the FCC from frivolous lawsuits while they are doing their volunteer jobs. The bill, HR 3207, would afford amateurs engaged in statutorily defined activities with the VE program and with the Amateur Auxiliary the same liability as federal workers under the Federal Tort Claims Act. When individuals who fall under such protection are sued for something they have done while performing their duties, the Federal government steps in to protect them. Baker introduced the measure, the Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act of 1996, March 29, 1996, as an amendment to the Communications Act.

While the bill would not afford absolute blanket immunity, it does offer a fairly rigorous body of legal protection from the kind of malicious litigation that tends to frighten volunteers away from these activities, said ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA.

Baker said that Amateur Radio volunteers provide an invaluable service to all ham radio operators by assisting in licensing and monitoring activities, thus saving taxpayer dollars. Those savings would dry up if volunteers stay away for

fear of lawsuits, Baker said in a letter to colleagues. The bill is a simplified version of legislation originally introduced in the 103rd Congress by Rep. Jim Slattery. Individuals and private organizations currently protected by the Federal Tort Claims Act include Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), the Peace Corps and the Job Corps.

Baker has enlisted members of both parties as original cosponsors of the bill. These include: Charles Wilson (D-TX); Bob Wise (D-WV); Edolphus Townes (D-NY); Mike Parker (R-MS); Toby Roth (R-WI); Charles Taylor (R-NC); Ron Dellums (D-CA); David Funderburk, K4TPJ, (R-NC); Ed Royce (R-CA); Norman Dicks (D-WA); Vern Ehlers (R-MI); Chris Cox (R-CA); Andrew Jacobs (D-IN); Harold Rogers (R-KY); Dennis Hastert (R-IL); Dave Weldon (R-FL); Anna Eshoo (D-CA); Ken Calvert (R-CA); Doug Bereuter (R-NE); Gene Green (D-TX); George E. Brown (D-CA); Eva Clayton (D-NC); and Sam Farr (D-CA).

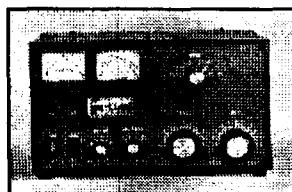
ARRL members may want to write their own Congressional Representatives urging them to support HR 3207.

- ARRL Bulletin ARLB019, 4/2/96

NEW PRODUCTS

Ameritron AL-800H 1500 Watt Amplifier

Ameritron, "The High Power Specialist" announces the AL-800H 1500 Watts "Plus" amplifier. Ameritron AL-800H uses two genuine Eimac tubes, 3CX800A7 and boasts 1500 watts "Plus" for only... \$2295.



Ameritron, the "High Power Specialist", announces the newest to its line of high power, rugged linear amplifiers, the AL-800H and AL-800.

The AL-800H uses two Genuine Eimac tubes, 3CX800A7s, and boasts 1500 watts "Plus". The AL-800 uses one Genuine Eimac tube, 3CX800A7 and powers up to 1250 watts.

These new amplifiers carry an all-band operation: 160-15 meters, including WARC bands. The amplifiers are user-modifiable for 12 and 10 meters.

The amplifiers feature a tuned input circuit, output network, tube protection, ALC control, Vernier Reduction drives, heavy duty power supply, multi-voltage operation, air cooled ventilation systems, dual illuminated cross-needle meters, a Step-Start Inrush Protection™ program, an attractive Lexan front panel decal, and they are a compact desktop size at 8.5 x 16.5 x 14.25 inches.

The tuned input circuit is an adjustable slug tuned input circuit and the output network is a Pi/Pi-L, giving you smooth tuning and wide matching range.

The amplifiers have a grid current that limits circuits and protects your tubes and both display an adjustable

front panel, true ALC control.

Vernier Reduction drives tune and load and make adjustments smooth and easy. A user-modifiable 32 lb. grain orientated, silicone steel core transformer is supplied with high capacitance computer grade filter capacitors.

With the AL-800H and AL-800, you get a multi-voltage operation. 14 user selectable AC line voltage is available from 90-140 VAC; 200-250 VAC. Air cooled, quiet pressurized ventilation will keep your tubes safely cooled.

Both amplifiers come with dual illuminated cross-needle meters that read peak forward power, reflected power, SWR high voltage, grid current and plate current. A Step-Start Protection™ program stops damage from inrush currents to your amplifiers.

The AL-800H and AL-800 come with a one year warranty.

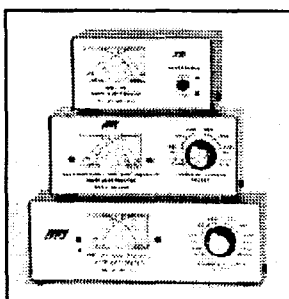
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MFJ Enterprises, Inc. announces the MFJ-864 Cross-Needle SWR Wattmeter. Read forward and reflected power and SWR simultaneously at a single glance... only \$69.95.

The new MFJ Cross-Needle SWR Wattmeter covers 1.8-60 MHz, 144 MHz, and the 440 MHz Bands on HF/VHF/UHF, for an incredibly low \$69.95!



You can read forward and reflected power and SWR simultaneously at a single glance with the MFJ-864. It features separate HF and VHF/UHF directional couplers, each with its own set of SO-239 coaxial connectors.

You can connect your HF and VHF/UHF transceivers at the same time. You can then monitor SWR and power of either transceiver at the flick of a switch. The MFJ-864's benefits far outweigh any competitors. The 864 competitors have single set of connectors for all bands and they make you disconnect and swap rigs to read SWR or power.

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The MFJ-862 is similar as the 864 but covers 144 MHz, 220 MHz, and 440 MHz with 30/300 watts forward and 6/60 watts on reflected ranges. The 862 and 864 measure in at 6 3/4 x 2 1/2 x 2 1/4 inches.

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The MFJ-864, 862, and 860 come with MFJ's now famous "No Matter What" one year unconditional warranty.

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- MFJ news releases

Stage, Theatre, TV, Radio, and Movies: That's Show Biz - and Jan Garske Has Been Part of Them All

Your editor played a background extra part in "Chain Reaction," starring Morgan Freeman and Keneau Reeves. On arrival at the parking lot in Madison, I saw another car with call sign license plates. They belong to Jan Garske, N9LWJ, Poynette. I found that she has been involved with acting and production for some time, so I asked her for a story. It is best left in her own words. Here they are.

My major in college was theater arts, a rather broad subject. However, it has helped me foster my love of theater throughout the years. I started "acting" by playing the Virgin Mary in a Sunday school nursery class Christmas production. It's been one play after another since then. I have been a member of Portage Area Community Theater for 24 years, and when not on stage, usually work in publicity or make-up.

I also have made radio commercials in Janesville, Madison and Portage, something I continue to pursue. It is a fun thing to do; who wouldn't like to do something they love and get paid in addition?

I was hired by a Milwaukee production company as their make-up artist when they were shooting TV commercials. That job lasted several years and was extremely interesting. My fondest memory of that time was in learning they really do shout, "make-up," just like in the movies. It was a thrill to know they really needed my powder puff. However, the need to travel to Milwaukee for several days to complete a shoot just didn't fit into my family life, so I ended that association.

I have been a longtime judge for many area 4-H drama and speech competitions, the county Youth Conservation contests, as well as high school forensic and play contests.

Since I am familiar with stage and TV work, I thought it would be fun to try and be in a movie. Thus, when I heard of the "cattle calls" for the movie, "Chain Reaction," I didn't hesitate to run to Madison, picture and resume in hand, to see if I could be among the lucky persons to be an extra in



Jan Garske, N9LWJ

their film.

I was among those chosen and as you know, we ran into each other in the holding room on our "shoot" days. While I think you were assigned to outdoor scenes (actually, I was also in the capitol rotunda - K9ZZ), I was delegated to be inside. I played a congresswoman, in outdoor dress, rushing across the rotunda floor, meeting a fellow "congressman," talking briefly, and moving on. A second scene had the two of us walking toward the star, Keneau Reeves (as they filmed Reeves from behind), crossing paths and again moving on. We shot that scene several times, and each time I was within five feet of him, making eye contact, but never speaking.

I was assigned and then rejected for another scene in the Supreme Court chambers. However, I did get to see Morgan Freeman close-up, and was impressed by his commanding presence.

The movie business is fascinating, but boring, too. As in TV, a single scene, a few seconds of film, takes hours to accomplish, so you sit around and wait much of the time. My feet may never recover! However, you do meet many wonderful and interesting people and certainly have a unique experience to talk about.

You'll probably see Jan in the film, a 20th Century-Fox production. You may see your editor very briefly in an "establishment" shot of the capitol rotunda (which, for the movie's plot, we understand is the nation's capitol), shot from a floor above. I'm wearing a brown coat, navy blue pants, and, as usual, have my hands in my pockets. Like Jan, you won't notice my sore legs, but, after five hours, ouch!

Jan's hubby is Bob, K9JMP, and son Mike is KB9CCX.

"Chain Reaction" (originally titled "Dead Drop") is reportedly due in theatres this summer.

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The application for the award must show the call, city and county of each station worked, date and time, mode and band, arranged in alphabetical order by county. Official WAWC Application Forms may be obtained by writing to the address below.

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SUNDAY JUNE 9, 1996

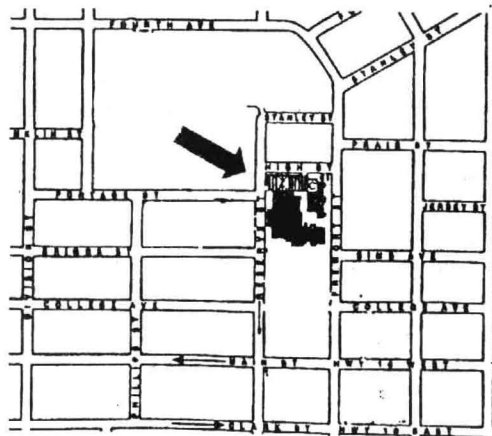
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Correspondence

NEAR SPACE SCIENCES PULLS OUT OF ROCKET LAUNCH

As of 4/1/96, Near Space Sciences is sad to announce its separation from the planned rocket launch on 5/4/96. Things have proceeded in a manner that we feel has been unprofessional, or at best inconsiderate.. or being on the border of being like "espionage." Here is a brief summary of the chain of events that led to this disappointing decision today.

As most of the readers of BSSS know, Near Space Sciences has been involved in high altitude balloon experimentation since 1987, with many variations of payloads and lots of fun too. We have learned a lot from the days of the first flights of what works and what will not in that rough environment. Our group, Near Space Sciences (NSS), was one of the 3 founding groups in the nation doing these high altitude balloon experiments. The other two are the Denver based group EOSS, Edge Of Space Sciences, and the man that started it all, Bill Brown, WB8ELK, From Ohio. All of our flights have been totally of our own ideas, in construction, and hardest of of all, funding. We have had no outside help at all funding these flights (one payload had about \$3500.00 worth of gear inside that little Styrofoam box and no guarantee that it would ever be seen again); it just has been the guys that were interested in the project. They helped out to make it happen in anyway they could, either with equipment or just plain cash!

Most of the time we had very innovative ideas that we would come up with first that the other groups either thought you couldn't do, or just plain didn't think of. One was on our very first flight, the cross-band repeater. Prior to that flight all of the balloon flights from the other groups were of a one way nature, from the balloon down to the ground. Like a beacon, the people on the ground could watch or listen to the payload, but do nothing with it. A lot of you should remember that repeater flight. It was originally scheduled for April, but due to testing of the payload and further refinements, it didn't get off the ground till August! But what a flight it was!

The second flight was another first, our first ATV video flight. The other groups have done video flights prior to ours, but all of them had the camera either looking down at the ground or out at the horizon. We added what we thought was a simple addition to the payload, a touch tone decoder, that, through the cross-band repeater, we could control a mirror that was placed in front of the camera so we could change the view from the balloon payload from the ground to the horizon or even up to the balloon! Before then no one had a view of the balloon during a flight.

Well enough about us, now onto what happened to cause us to leave the rocket project.

Being on our own, we were always sorta jealous of the other two groups, Bill Brown's group, with its connections with 73 magazine (Bill was one of its editors), and EOSS, with the involvement of 2 universities and several high schools. They never had a shortage of either projects or funding for them. EOSS, through one of the universities involved with them, actually had donated to them an ultraviolet solar telescope to have for one of their flights to experiment with. I heard it was valued at over \$50,000.00 and NASA didn't care if they ever got it back or not.

We contacted the University of Wisconsin before many of our flights to let them know of the activities and they always seemed interested, but never would show up on the days of the flights. We did the same for local high schools with the same result: lots of interest and enthusiasm, but no one would ever show up. We finally gave up contacting them for it was a waste of time. A few years ago, one of our members was contacted by some of the students at the University of Wisconsin to ask if he would be interested in helping them on a payload. Of course, he said GLADLY! Well, weeks and weeks went by and finally a bunch of homemade parts arrive at this guy's home and were basically dumped in his lap to try to make into a payload. These students were the "smart college brains" We, without the college training can't do anything; at least this is the impression we got from them. Well, he did the best he could with the parts they wanted to use.

this payload was doomed to failure, but because I never went to college or even finished high school, "I don't know anything." Well, the balloon was ready to go, but the payload was inoperative. After a few hours of fiddling with it, the college guys were able to get it to work electrically.

Mechanically was another story. They thought it was a good design, but I was thinking to myself "I'll be suprised if this thing makes it at all." It took off and within 5 minutes it had a bad intermittent transmission problem, and within another 10 to 15 minutes, the payload was totally dead. Luckily, there was a name and address on the box so that at least when someone finds it it has some chance of being returned, because there was no signal to be heard to chase after.

The guy that tried his best at making this stuff from the college guys work became very discouraged in the ballooning experimentation all together, and it took quite some time to get his enthusiasm back. After they dumped the stuff in his lap, they practically disappeared; they didn't help him with it at all. So, chalk one up with dealing with the UW. Now onto the rocket thing.

Not quite a year ago, back in June '95, a person from the Wisconsin Space Business Roundtable called me one night and had a offer for us to help them on their project. They had a Super Loki rocket that NASA donated to them, and they wanted us to design a more interesting payload for it. The payload in it from NASA is just a simple temperature probe that measures air temperature from the rocket on the way down. BORING! But, we said YOU BET!

Well, after many enjoyable phone conversations that lasted at times well into the night for hours at a time, he said as soon as the rocket arrived from Florida he would get the payload compartment to us to start work on the retrofit.

We were very excited, to say the least! Weeks went by, many, many, phone calls, with discussions of what we could put into this thing. Well, the rocket arrived in Wisconsin. And can you believe it, it was at Camp Douglas, only a few miles from me! I said this is great, I can just go and get the payload and start work on it right away. Well, they became very vague on how and when I could go and even see it; never mind take the payload area. The phone calls kept on coming in asking what I would plan to use in the payload, and, not thinking twice, I told them. We even had our GPS specialist make two four-hour drives to a couple of their meetings to show them the GPS equipment he had and some telemetry equipment we planned to use. They were very excited and told him go ahead and develop a telemetry system for it. He gave them a parts list and circuit layouts.

Then, a Physics professor at the Michigan Technological University called me one night, interested in the project. He read the announcement of the project in BSSS and wanted more details. He had followed some of our ATV balloon flights in the past, and was excited in the possibility of the actual space flight! We talked many times about the flight and what we were going to use in the payload. They were very enjoyable conversations, with lots of technical exchanges of information and ideas. He just seemed interested in the flight from the technical side. Being an amateur too, I thought well, we now have a new guy for our group.

Now this is where things began to deteriorate. The phone calls ceased. I still had no payload at all. It was now several months later and the payload was now down in Madison at the UW! The project organizer sent the payload to some engineering students to work on the payload. But he still wanted our help. I thought to myself, "here we go again". He said though that he still wanted us to make the equipment, but he'd have the students install it. I had a few conversations with the student leader on what we planned to use. (By the way, that was one of the hardest parts: doing the research of what we could put into the rocket.) They were, from the beginning, very secretive on the available payload area available. And we spent quite a bit in phone calls to get the list of parts we would use in the final configuration.

Well, we thought things will still go OK. Now the phone calls ceased again. We called and left messages for them to call us, on Internet E-Mail, at the UW, at their place of business, and on their own home phone answering machines.. No one replied. A couple of months went by, and launch date was getting close, only a couple of months away. More messages and still no

had developed the ATV Payload and it was ready for installation! That was a suprise, to say the least! From the beginning we thought we were to develop it.

But I guess since were not college students or professors we don't know what were doing, even though we have had more experience with the space environment than any of these guys. I was honestly disappointed that we were not the ones to make the electronics for the ATV system, but at least the telemetry system we still had. Or so we thought. Our telemetry and GPS specialist went to work and developed the telemetry system that he described to them at one of their meetings.

When he contacted them that it would soon be ready, they told him oh, you can keep it; we liked your design and made one ourselves. Well, I hope he could keep it, he paid for it! He didn't need it, and he, thinking he'd be contributing to the rocket program paid out of his own pocket for the parts. And they weren't cheap.

It had started at the beginning that we at NSS were to completely design, install, advise, and basically build the payload from nothing, and ended up with NSS doing just that: NOTHING! We have nothing in the rocket now or have any involvement with its design. (I shouldn't say that, we did design it in a sort of round about way by these "super brain college dudes" picking our brains finding out what we planned on using when we thought we were the ones going to be the ones to actually do the work.)

As you can tell I'm sorta mad and disappointed that the people in charge of this project couldn't have the insight to rely on the group that has lots of experience with designing and building payloads that would work in the space environment. At least, if they knew that we weren't to be the constructors, they should have at least told us so in the beginning, instead of being so secretive.

In hindsight it really fits now, as this must have been the reason why no concrete details of the rocket were ever passed along to us. It always was "it is about this size and about that big." I told them with the stuff we planned on using we were getting dangerously close to not fitting, and that we needed exact dimensions down to the millimeter! We could never get that! Also, because of some of the equipment would need to be modified for the space environment. Certain capacitors need to be changed out, and since, 'way up there, we are in a total vacuum, the only cooling available is from direct radiation. Heat sinks are very ineffective in dissipating heat in a vacuum. We have learned the hard way. Blown finals, exploded capacitors, what works and what doesn't. And a lot doesn't!

Well I wish them luck, and I will be watching from out here, but I won't be in Sheboygan to watch the rocket leave, if it works or not. Have fun and take care!

Joe Mayenschein WB9SBD
President and founder of NSS
WI0150 Hwy. 33
Wonegan, WI 53968

HERE AND THERE

Continued from page 5

April through June of this year, with sunspot numbers in February 1997 reaching fall 1995 levels. Previous forecasts have mentioned a 10.7-cm solar flux minimum centered around spring of 1997, but the latest projection moves that period up a bit. What it shows is a minimum based on an average flux of 72 for October 1996 through February 1997, with the flux also averaging 72 for June 1996.

Spring of 1998 should present a radically different picture. By then, the average flux will climb toward 100, and 10, 12 and 15 meters should be alive with activity again. By April 1999, the average solar flux is projected to be 158, rising to 192 a year later! The next cycle is projected to peak near the turn of the century--in August 2000.

- The ARRL Letter, 4/12/96

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PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



Riverland Amateur Radio Club

Dan Abts, N9PZC
Secretary

Club mail address: P.O. Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650



MEETING MINUTES April 2, 1996

The April meeting of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on April 2, 1996 by President Duane, W9HWQ. There were 20 people in attendance.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as read by Dan, N9PZC.

The treasurer was absent, so Rick, KV9U, gave the report. Of the 90 members we had for 1995, 64 have paid their dues for 1996. The report was accepted as read.

Programs: Feroz, WU9N, reported that there was no program for tonight. At the May meeting there will be a small auction with some of the proceeds going to the club.

440 Repeater: Dan, N9PZC, reported that they have contacted a person to help modify the radios to bring them down to the 440 frequency needed. He is looking at the service manual for the Motorola Moxy radios and we will be getting the radios to him.

Net Manager: Karl, KB9EQI, said that the Sunday night net has been held regularly and gets ten to fifteen check-ins. He has been playing Newsline when he can get it from the Internet. He is looking for others to run the net some weekends and he may be leaving the area.

ARES/Skywarn: Kent, W9LZQ, was not present but it was agreed that the Skywarn operations training and the Skywarn spotters training went well.

Property Manager: Bob, N9LZK, was not present but the president reported that Bob had informed him that mice had destroyed two 100 foot lengths of RG58 he had stored in the trailer. Feroz, WU9N, will donate a similar amount of cable he has to the club.

Swapfest: Dick, K0JYB, was not present.

146.97 Repeater: Walt, AA9AW, reports that there has been an intermittent problem with the repeater. He has been up at the site and has done some things to correct the problem. Time will tell if it is solved or not.

Field Day: Karl, KB9EQI, reported that he is looking into several sites. The event will be for demonstrating and socializing rather than for contesting.

VE: Bill, KE9XQ, said that the test

session held on March 30, 1996 was small but went well. Eight tests were given and five were passed.

Old Business

Rick, KV9U, will contact Robin, KB9LAC, to get the Constitution and the Standing Rules of the club and the repeater operation guidelines in electronic form. He will then work on publishing copies for the members of the club.

Judy, N9LGV, was not present but Rick, KV9U, reported that she is checking into having some of the extra copies we receive of the Badger State Smoke Signals sent to various libraries around the area. The La Crosse Public Library is willing to take a copy.

Feroz, WU9N, reported that there will be a club picnic in July or August and that it will probably be held at the Onalaska Park.

New Business

Judy, N9LGV, will be resigning from her post as treasurer at the next meeting because her family is moving to Viroqua. At the May meeting there will be an election for a new treasurer.

Walt, AA9AW, will take over Rick, KV9U's, responsibility of getting the key for the meeting site.

Feroz, WU9N, made a motion that the club should consider selling the trailer and replace it with a pull behind, equipment type, trailer with a metal box. Bill, KE9XQ, seconded the motion. After some discussion, Red, WO0W, made a motion to table the previous motion and Bob, N0PDD, seconded it. The trailer will be brought to the May meeting an hour early for people to look at it. A trailer committee consisting of Bill, KE9XQ, Red WO0W, and Karl, KB9EQI, will look at pricing for a new trailer.

Bill, KE9XQ, reminded us that we may need to fill out a form to remain a Special Services Club. The secretary will check into this.

Feroz, WU9N, made a motion at 8:03 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Rick, KV9U, and passed.

*Respectfully submitted
by Dan, N9PZC*

Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club

Carl Searing, W9NW, Secretary

1129 McKinley Road • Eau Claire, WI 54703

MEETING MINUTES April 9, 1996

The meeting was held at the Labor Temple in Eau Claire. It started at 1900 hours. As was reported earlier, this event was structured to be a Skywarn instructional session.

Todd Krause, a meteorologist from the Twin Cities office of NOAA, presented a three-hour program utilizing slides and video, with copious instruction and explanation of the proper methods of identifying and reporting tornadoes. Safety techniques for the spotter were explicitly stressed. Some, 95 people attended, including

police and fire personnel from both Eau Claire and Chippewa counties, emergency medical technicians, emergency government directors from both counties, Ron Anderson (WA9PAM), sheriff of Chippewa County), as well as Red Cross representatives, and a cross-section of local hams.

It was an excellent presentation. The setup and coordination of the meeting was by club President Kevin Zehr, ably assisted by Jim Staats (WB9RBP).

Refreshments were furnished by the club, and also by Judy Spangler, XYL of club VP Bert, W9ZZI. □

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

WISCONSIN NTS TRAFFIC REPORT March 1996

March net activity is showing quite an increase from February. Almost one thousand more check-ins and just under three hundred more pieces of traffic. Way to go!

With all eight nets (The Novice Net is going again) reporting, 4257 stations passed 2941 pieces of traffic in March. The Badger Weather Net (BWN) had 2006 check-ins and 2532 messages passed. The Badger Emergency Net (BWN) had 764 check-ins and 124 messages passed. The Wisconsin Sideband Net (WSBN) reported 553 check-ins and 85 messages passed. The newly resurrected Wisconsin Novice Net (WNN) had 63 check-ins and 9 messages passed. The Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN) reported 221 check-ins and 24 messages passed. Wisconsin Interstate Net/Early (WIN/E) had 252 check-ins and 106 messages passed. Wisconsin Interstate Net/Late (WIN/L) reported 145 check-ins and 20 messages passed. The Northwoods Traffic Net (NWTN) had 243 check-ins and 41 messages passed.

The evening nets are still showing improved traffic counts and with the lengthening days propagation should be better in the evening.

There has been some confusion on the starting time of the Novice Net. The net starting time is the same as always. 6:00 p.m. local time. It was reported that the net would start at 6:15 p.m., but that was in error. The time and frequency is the same as it has always been, 3723 kHz at 6:00 p.m. local time. And a big tip of the hat to Tom, N9MXW, for the effort he

has expended to get the Novice Net rolling again. Good job, Tom!

In March, there were ten station who had traffic counts in excess of 100, three of whom made Brass Pounders League. The stations are: W9AYK/1603 (BPL), WB9JSW/946 (BPL), W9IHW/922 (BPL), W9CBE/218, K9FHI/211, K9DHR/166, N9CKC/131, N9KHD/121, W9YCV/119 and N9BDL/116.

Thirty stations submitted Station Activity reports and eleven stations submitted Public Service Honor Roll reports.

I mail my reports to League Headquarters on the 7th of the month. That makes the deadline for reports the 6th. I can accept reports until I start printing them up for mailing. If you can catch me on the BWN on the morning of the 7th all would be well.

Hale Blakely, W9CBE, will also accept reports and forward them to me. Hale covers most of the CW and SSB nets so there is someone on almost every net to take reports.

Reports can also be sent via packet. My packet address is:

KA9KLZ @ NX9V.WI.USA.NOAM

NX9V forwards directly into my pbbs so getting reports to me is not dependent on me checking the NX9V's mailbox.

Thanks to all stations who participate in the Wisconsin nets. You are the nets and Wisconsin nets are the best. 73.

*Submitted by:
Arthur A. Evans, KA9KLZ
Wisconsin Section Traffic Manager*

Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, Secretary

P. O. Box 401 • Abbotsford, WI 54405-0401

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2nd at 7 p.m. in the Emergency Government meeting room located in the basement of the sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Talk-in on the 147.15 Medford repeater (+ 600 kHz) or 146.52 MHz simplex.

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 1996 MEETING

Meeting was called to order by President N9GEN. Present were KA9WDX, N9GEN and N9GHZ.

Minutes of the March 7, 1996 meeting were read by Secretary N9GHZ and accepted as read. Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer KA9WDX. Members present authorized the treasurer to drop those subscribers who are not currently paid up from the next Badger State Smoke Signals billing.

It was announced that Roland Sacho, N9UBQ, Taylor County Emergency Government Coordinator, is at home recovering from surgery. A card will be sent to him from the club. He will be "out-of-action" for another couple of weeks.

The 147.15 Medford repeater is back on the air, but the receive side is not functioning very well. N9GHZ will be returning a call to Northway Communications and will report on this at that time. It might possibly be the noise level (squell) control setting on the repeater controller. There was also some discussion of recent problems with lightning strikes affecting the repeater's operation, and what could

possibly be done about it.

Motion by N9GHZ, seconded by N9GEN, to have the club apply for a club call sign from the FCC. Motion carried. N9GEN will contact W9QHI, current repeater trustee, regarding the trustee requirement on the application form. N9GHZ indicated that he would be willing to assume the trustee responsibility should W9QHI wish to relinquish it at this time.

Motion by N9GHZ, seconded by N9GEN, to have the club renew its membership in the Wisconsin Assn. of Repeaters. Motion carried. One copy of the WAR newsletter will be sent to club president N9GEN and the other copy will go to club treasurer KA9WDX.

N9GHZ reported that he had recently received a letter from a LeRoy Berg of Gilman, who is interested in becoming an Amateur Radio operator. LeRoy was referred to N9GHZ by N9NDT's mother, and has already checked out a couple of books from the Gilman library, most likely the ones that were donated to the library by the club several years ago. N9GHZ spoke with him on the telephone to answer some questions he had and is also sending him some more information by mail. He is presently looking for a "correspondence-type" course that he can take to prepare for the license exams.

KA9WDX provided some information to the members present on the Midwest DX Packet Association, and also discussed the National Weather Service SKYWARN severe weather spotters' training session that he recently attended at Wausau.

N9GHZ reminded those present that the club is sponsoring an Amateur Radio

Continued on page 11

Mancorad Radio Club

John Meyer, N29Z, Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI
54221-0204



2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

MEETING MINUTES April 10, 1996

The April meeting of the ManCoRad Club was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by club president Red, N9GHE.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the Smoke Signals. The treasurer's Report was read by Glenn, AA9MT, and were approved as read.

Old Business

Glenn noted that a Yaesu HT has been purchased for the hamfest raffle. A 1996 ARRL Handbook has been donated for a door prize by Chuck, W9BZU. Thanks, Chuck!

Red noted that there are still volunteers needed for helping at the hamfest. The signup sheet was passed around. Club members who were not present at the meeting can sign up to help by getting in touch with Red.

The summer bike rallies were discussed. Red and Barney, N9XER, will look into exactly what will be needed there.

New Business

The club would like to welcome Tom, KB9GRC, back as a regular member.

The submarine event was discussed -- and the need to get going on it. (Due to lack of a coordinator last summer, ManCoRad did not have a special event from onboard the Cobia.) Len will check on a date (Saturday, August 17th is a likely possibility). There is a chance of having a joint event with a Milwaukee club that has expressed an interest. Your secretary will contact the other club.

John, N29Z, reminded the club of the banquet that is traditionally held after the hamfest and the need to get that organized. The Fawn Supper Club on Woodland Drive was the dining establishment of choice. Red will see to the arrangements. The dinner will commence at 6:30 p.m., with the "social hour" (or "tune-up period" as some call it) beginning at 5:30. The meal will cost \$10 per person including tax and tip, and will be a buffet with chicken, ham, beef tips, shrimp and fish. (The Fawn always puts on a good spread!) Reservations and payment are due to Glenn on or before the next club meeting (May 8th).

Ron, WS9X, announced the first T-hunt of the year. He also handed out new repeater and satellite frequency lists and passed around a new journal, the *Electronic Experimenters' Journal*, which is available free with a toll-free phone call (800-423-4499).

PRB-1 information was available. The state legislation codifying this into state law will be very important to many hams in years to come. Glenn spoke of his experiences in trying to get a decent tower up while living next door to an airport.

Chuck led a raffle for some old ham radio books with the proceeds going to the club treasury -- thanks again, Chuck!

Lastly, Red showed off a very nice custom mouse pad that Clancy, KB9ECW, can make, personalized with your name and call sign.

A motion to adjourn was made by Len, seconded by Ron. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Refreshments were served.

Submitted for approval:
John Meyer, N29Z, Secretary

Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Radne, WI 53402

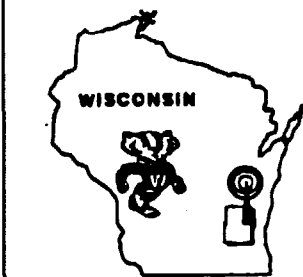


An interesting and informative program on QRP portable operating was given by Bill Komistra, W9OVZ, at the conclusion of our March meeting. Bill, utilizing a gel cell battery, a solar panel recharging unit and door bell type wire formed into full wave antennas, set about explaining how his less-than-five watt transceiver communicated on HF bands from many remote beautiful wilderness settings as he transversed, via motorcycle, the great North American continent.

Aided with a sling-shot, a fishing line equipped reel and a lead weight, an antenna could be raised to any height an

existing structure - nature or man-made - offered. If a current terrain was structureless, Bill laid his antenna upon the ground and called CQ. CW was the more lucrative mode for a response; but the SSB had its moments.

Our Anniversary social gathering took place at the Meadows Restaurant in Franksville on Sunday afternoon, the 14th of April. Twenty-two attended including our newest member, George Pagels, K9-AAL, for a fine meal, good conversation and a very brief business meeting. Our president, Ken Knoff, N9NBC, presented an ARRL certificate attesting to Steve



Washington County Amateur Radio Club

Tom Waldschmidt, N9LZW,
Secretary
465 Elder Lane
Allenton, WI 53002-9799



Club Repeater: 146.73 MHz

MEETING MINUTES April 11, 1996

The April 11, 1996 membership meeting of the Washington County Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by President Walt Gossfeld, N9LLS. There were 16 members and 3 guests attending.

The minutes from the March meeting were read by Secretary Tom, N9LZW. There was a motion by Jim, KB9LTW, seconded by Bill, N9IBU, to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried.

The financial report was read by Treasurer Dave, KA9RNU. There was a motion by Sherm, W9NGT, seconded by Chris, N9ZES, to accept the financial report.

OLD BUSINESS

President Walt, N9LLS, reported that Bill, N9IBU, has offered to take on the duties of Emergency Government Chairman for the club.

Sherm, W9NGT, said that someone should contact the St. Lawrence Fire Department Chief regarding use of the grounds for Field Day. Walt, N9LLS, will take care of this. Sherm also reported that Rip, W9SIZ, will assume the duties of Field Day Chairman. Two more members are needed to help Rip with Field Day planning.

NEW BUSINESS

Maury, W9MQD, Jim KB9LTW, and Larry, WB9BVB, discussed the newly established packet mailbox on 145.690. The call W9MQD-4 should be used to access the mailbox. Larry recommended that the meeting minutes be posted there.

Tom, N9LZW, reported that the club received correspondence from the *Badger State Smoke Signals* explaining how we could show our support for legislation codifying PRB-1 into Wisconsin law. The BSSS made handouts available to members.

Tom also made an announcement regarding the Wisconsin Novice Net. This is a beginner's CW traffic net which meets nightly at 6:00 p.m. on a frequency of 3723 KHz. Hams are invited to "Jump in anytime".

Tom also mentioned that he had been looking into the possibility of the club participating in the Pick n' Save food chain's "WE CARE" program. Participating organizations receive 1 percent of the cash register tape totals that they collect. It appears that the club would need to incorporate as a non-profit organization and obtain a tax exempt number.

Jim, KB9LTW, initiated a discussion about Slow Scan TV. Quite a few of our members are experimenting with this mode and are encouraging others to try it.

Neal, WA9WYI, informed members to be wary when purchasing computers or new motherboards for their computers. Some are on the market with a cache of fake chips installed.

There was a discussion about next month's program. A show of hand's indicated 5 members intending to participate in the homebrew contest.

Larry, WB9BVB, moved to include an internal swapfest, for members only, with the May program. Motion seconded by Chris, N9ZES. Motion carried.

There being no further new business, President Walt, N9LLS entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Sherm, W9NGT, and seconded by Bill, N9IBU. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:
Tom, N9LZW, Secretary

Following the meeting members heard from Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, the Ozaukee County ARES Emergency Coordinator. Stan discussed the Ozaukee County ARES program and presented his ideas on how Washington County ARES might interact with them both in training and in emergency operations. Our sincere thanks to Stan for discussing this important and interesting topic with us. □

Bellgraph's 55-years of continuous license as a Ham. Congrats, Steve! The ice cream served at the conclusion of our meal complimented the marble cake, decorated with the QCWA logo, that Bill, W9OVZ, brought to officially mark our Ninth Anniversary. Thanks Bill!

Ed (W9NVK) and Marie Konicek recently (16 March 1996) returned from a week Caribbean Cruise - a celebration of the 60th anniversary of Ed's birth. Seems that Marie had a little surprise in mind prior to the airline flight to warm weather. Ed was told that his son was to drive the couple to the airport and, at 4:15 a.m. (they had a 6 a.m. flight), when the driver was not there, Ed wanted Marie to call their son to make sure he hadn't overslept. Marie spent another anxious 15 minutes until they heard a car pull into their driveway. Ed went to the door, possible to yell at his son for being late, but stopped short in his tracks. Sitting in his drive was a stretch limousine. Ed and Marie traveled to the airport in complete comfort and had a wonderful cruise.

Our May meeting will be on Monday, the 20th of May at the South Port Restaurant in Kenosha beginning at 7:30 p.m. Final plans for our upcoming Field Day adventure will be hammered out. And topics of interest (hopefully) will be discussed. See you there!

73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO

Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

Continued from page 10

exhibit at the Business and Industry Expo at Abbottsford High School on Monday, April 22nd, and he would appreciate volunteers from the club to assist with setup, take down and manning of the club's exhibit area.

Meeting was adjourned.

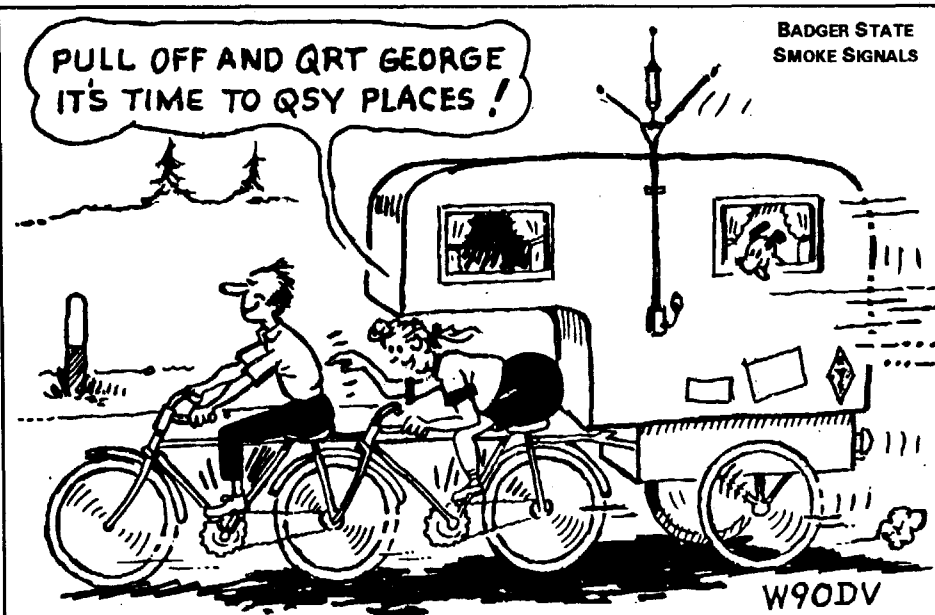
CLARK/TAYLOR COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) NEWS

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ
ARES Emergency Coordinator

Don't forget to try to check into the weekly ARES net hel! Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. on the Medford repeater (147.75/147.15). If the repeater is down or not functioning properly, alternate frequencies, in order, are 147.15 MHz simplex and 146.52 MHz simplex. You're also encouraged to volunteer for net control duty for the net. □

PULL OFF AND QRT GEORGE
IT'S TIME TO QSY PLACES!

BADGER STATE
SMOKE SIGNALS



HAMFEST CARD AD ADVERTISERS: Please check your card ad for correct date, time, location, etc. And remember that you get one FREE display ad as part of your package. It is YOUR responsibility to get two clean copies of your event's flyer to us at LEAST 8 weeks before your event. They go to the editor.

The Racine Megacycle Club



Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI
ARRL Affiliated
Providing Communications for American Red Cross and ARES

Alex Voss, N9RGX, Secretary
c/o RMC • P. O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 53401-0003



MEETING MINUTES APRIL 8, 1996

The meeting was called to order by president Rob Madson, KF9ZT. 24 Hams present:

Rob, KF9ZT, President
Kenny, N9WHR, Vice-President
Dave, AA9HL, Treasurer
Alex, N9RGX, Secretary

Lee, N9VNU, Activities Manager
Dan, KA9OIL, Trustee
Bob, W0WLN
Bill, W9OVZ
Bob, WB9IJY
Dave, KC9NG
Rees, K9UUT
Jim, W9LXY
Cheryl, WS9P
Spence, W9LDH
Gene, WB9ZKY
Bruce, K9RRS
Pete, KB9LXM
Tony, N9ZWM
Bill, W9ERG
Larry, WA9JMO

Dennis, KG9DO
Al, N9ZWJ
Don, KB9HAM
Ken, N9NBC

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Larry, WA9JMO clarified that at the February meeting Don Parkinson, KB9HAM, was presented an award for his work on the Ham Banquet, and the other awards were certificates of appreciation. The minutes were accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

OLD BUSINESS

Lee, N9VNU gave the Wisconsin QSO Party report. He would like to thank all the hams who participated during the event. Currently we have a score of 4100 points, but the total isn't in yet.

Lee, N9VNU, also passed out a Field Day sign up sheet.

Rob, KF9ZT, brought up the status of

the generator. He said that we do have a loaner generator that is available to us that will take advantage of for Field day. He also presented to the club a brand new generator donated by an anonymous group.

Cheryl, WS9P, mentioned that she is waiting for a response from the ARRL on some information on reciprocal calls for the Ham Cruise. She said the results of the survey so far indicate that most people are interested in a seven day cruise to the Bahamas. If you are interested in going on the cruise please fill out the survey and mail it in.

Dan, KA9OIL, gave the Fox Hunt Report. He said it was a good hunt. Dennis, WB9SVM, will be the fox next month. There were 2 no-finds.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 CDT.

KB9LXM was sentenced to a month with the Goodie Box.

Dave, KC9NG, gave an interesting presentation on DXing and showed us how to get the edge by using the Internet.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alexander Voss, N9RGX
Secretary RMC

Ham Calendar 1996 Courtesy Racine Megacycle Club

MAY

Sat	4	Testing Racine
Sat	4	Hamfest Cedarburg
Sun	5	Kenosha Ham Breakfast
Sat	11	Hamfest Manitowoc
Sat	11	Hamfest Peotone
Mon	13	RMC meeting
Fri	17	through
Sun	19	Dayton Hamvention
Sat	18	through
Sun	19	50 MHz Spring Sprint
Mon	20	QCWA #162 Business Meeting
Fri	24	RMC Fox Hunt

JUNE

Sat	1	Testing Racine
Sat	1	Hamfest Friendship
Sun	2	Kenosha Ham Breakfast
Sun	2	Hamfest Princeton
Sat	8	through
Mon	10	VHF QSO Party
Sun	9	Hamfest Stevens Point
Sun	9	Hamfest McHenry
Mon	10	RMC meeting
Fri	21	RMC Fox Hunt
Sat	22	Field Day starts
Sun	23	Field Day ends

JULY

Sun	7	Kenosha Ham Breakfast
Mon	8	RMC meeting
Sat	13	Hamfest Oak Creek
Sat	13	IARU HF World Championship
Fri	19	RMC Fox Hunt
Sat	27	Hamfest Eau Claire
Sat	27	Hamfest Rockford
Sun	28	HAMFEST RACINE!
Tue	30	Lakeshore meeting

AUGUST

Sat	3	through
Sun	4	UHF Contest
Sun	4	Kenosha Ham Breakfast
Mon	12	RMC Meeting
Fri	16	RMC Fox Hunt
Sat	17	through
Sun	18	10 GHz Contest
Sun	18	QCWA #162 Annual Picnic
Sat	24	Hamfest Onalaska

SEPTEMBER

Sun	1	Kenosha Ham Breakfast
Sat	7	Testing Racine
Mon	9	RMC Meeting
Fri	13	RMC Fox Hunt
Fri	13	through
Sun	16	Hamfest Peoria
Sat	14	through
Sun	16	VHF QSO Party
Sun	16	QCWA #162 Business Meeting
Sat	21	Amateur Radio Awareness
Sat	21	through
Sun	22	Hamfest Grayslake
Sat	21	through
Sun	22	10 GHz Contest

OCTOBER

Sat	6	Testing Racine
Sun	6	Kenosha Ham Breakfast
Fri	11	RMC Fox Hunt
Sun	13	Hamfest Waukesha (KMRA)
Mon	14	RMC Meeting
Sat	19	through
Sun	20	BSA Jamboree on the Air
Sat	19	through
Sun	20	Simulated Emergency Test
Sun	20	QCWA #162 Election
Tue	29	Lakeshore Meeting

NOVEMBER

Sat	2	Testing Racine
Sat	2	Sweepstakes - CW
Sun	3	Kenosha Ham Breakfast
Fri	8	RMC Fox Hunt
Mon	11	RMC Meeting
Sat	16	through
Mon	18	Sweepstakes - Phone
Mon	18	QCWA #162 Business Meeting

DECEMBER

Sun	1	Kenosha Ham Breakfast
Fri	6	RMC Fox Hunt
Fri	6	through
Sun	8	180-Meter Contest
Sat	7	Testing Racine
Sun	8	QCWA #162 Christmas Meeting
Mon	9	RMC Christmas Meeting
Sat	14	10-Meter Contest
Tue	31	Straight Key Night

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS, LTD.

At University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point



WB9QFW 2-Meter Repeater 146.07-.67 and Club Station

P. O. Box 923 • Plover, WI 54467

MEETING MINUTES April 10, 1996

The call to order at 7:34 p.m. was followed by the reports of the secretary and the treasurer. Both reports were approved by voice vote. It was announced that next month's club meeting will feature a video that Scott Jasper, NE9U, made during his visit to station W0AIH. Mike Pagel, KA9LAQ, has offered to show a video on lightning at the June meeting.

Discussion then turned to upcoming special events. John Kalina, KA9DJA, reported having fliers ready to distribute announcing the club's annual swapfest, which takes place this year on Sunday, June 9, at the University Center, U.W.-Stevens Point, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Scott Jasper urged club members to sell their raffle tickets, noting that the raffle will be held at the next club meeting. Joe Larson, N9JW, reported on club support for this summer's Special Olympics in Stevens

Point. Bob Baird, W9NN, announced that a site is available for Field Day; the club need only supply the bodies, equipment, antenna, and generator!

New Business

John Feltz, WA9LWJ, expressed interest in buying some spare issues of QST presently in the club's possession. Mike Pagel moved, and Dave Olson (N9-JQU) seconded, a motion that the club accept John's offer to buy 200 copies of these QSTs for \$50.00. The motion carried by voice vote. John then offered to act as broker for the club in selling spare copies of CQ magazine and 73 magazine. Mike Pagel moved, and Gene Kroll (KE9MA) seconded, a motion that John sell what he can of these magazines as broker for the club and that he recycle the rest. The motion carried by voice vote.

It was announced that Mike Pagel, our new equipment manager, has recently

moved the club equipment and documents previously housed at the residence of Frank Guth, W9BCC, to the club station. Mike has also volunteered to do some public service announcements on behalf of the club over local broadcast radio.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m., and was immediately followed by an educational program on advanced spotting techniques led by Gene Brusky of the Green Bay bureau of the National Weather Service. Sandy Curtis of Portage County Emergency Management announced afterward that a statewide communications drill will be held on April 25th.

Respectfully submitted,
David Tamres, KB9IIF
CWRA Secretary

ATTENDANCE

Brian Asplin	N9MZI
Robert Baird	W9NN
Sandra Curtis	
Ray Dix	KF9BG
Mary Eiden	KA9FAS
Mike Eiden	WD9JID
John Feltz	WA9LWJ
Chris Fix	
Lori Jasper	KA9ZGD
Scott Jasper	NE9U
John Kalina	KA9DJA
Kirt Krause	N9WVD
Debra Kroll	N9EIL
Gene Kroll	KE9MA
Joe Larson	N9JW
Gary W. Maluka	WD9ESX
Jeremiah Maller	N9WBU
Gordon Miller	KE9IA
Rich Maier	KC9NW
Dave Olson	N9JQU
Joe Omerik	N9CGV
Paul Omerik	N9ZQF
Mike Pagel	KA9LAQ
Craig Passow	N9QWR
Ken Slusarski	N9SDW
David Tamres	KB9IIF
Allen Taylor	KF9WR
Mike Urban	KB9GXV

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN A HAM RADIO CRUISE?

If you would be interested in going on a cruise sometime in 1997, Please fill out this no-obligation information gathering survey and send it to: Survey, c/o RMC, P.O. Box 3, Racine, WI 53405-0003.

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

1. Have you ever been on a cruise? YES NO
2. If so, how long ago? _____ Where did you go? _____
3. If you were to go on a cruise, would you prefer 4 or 7 days? _____
4. Would you prefer the Caribbean, Mexico, or Alaska? (circle one)
5. What time of year would you prefer to go? _____
6. If a cruise was organized for Wisconsin Amateur Radio Operators and their spouses for 1997, would you consider going? (circle one)
YES PROBABLY NOT INTERESTED
7. If you have cruised before and would like to suggest a cruise line or ship for this trip write your response here. _____
8. What might keep you from going on a cruise? _____
9. What have you heard about cruising that might make you want to go? _____

10. What special activities would you like to have planned as a part of a "Ham Radio" Cruise? _____

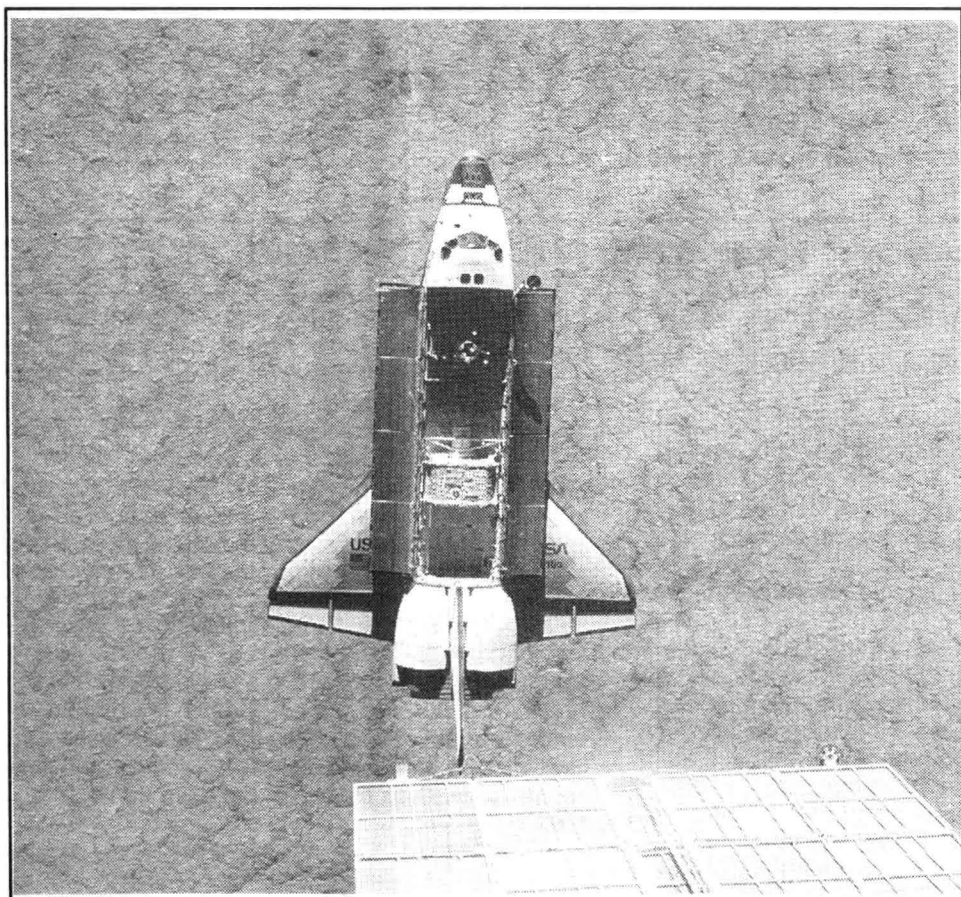
If you have any questions you may call Cheryl, WS9P, at (414)632-2985

Odds and Ends

• Address corrections or subscription problems or questions are handled by Ken Ebner, K9EN. Please do not direct those matters to the editor. I can barely handle what I do as it is, and I ain't got nuttin' to do with the above stuff.

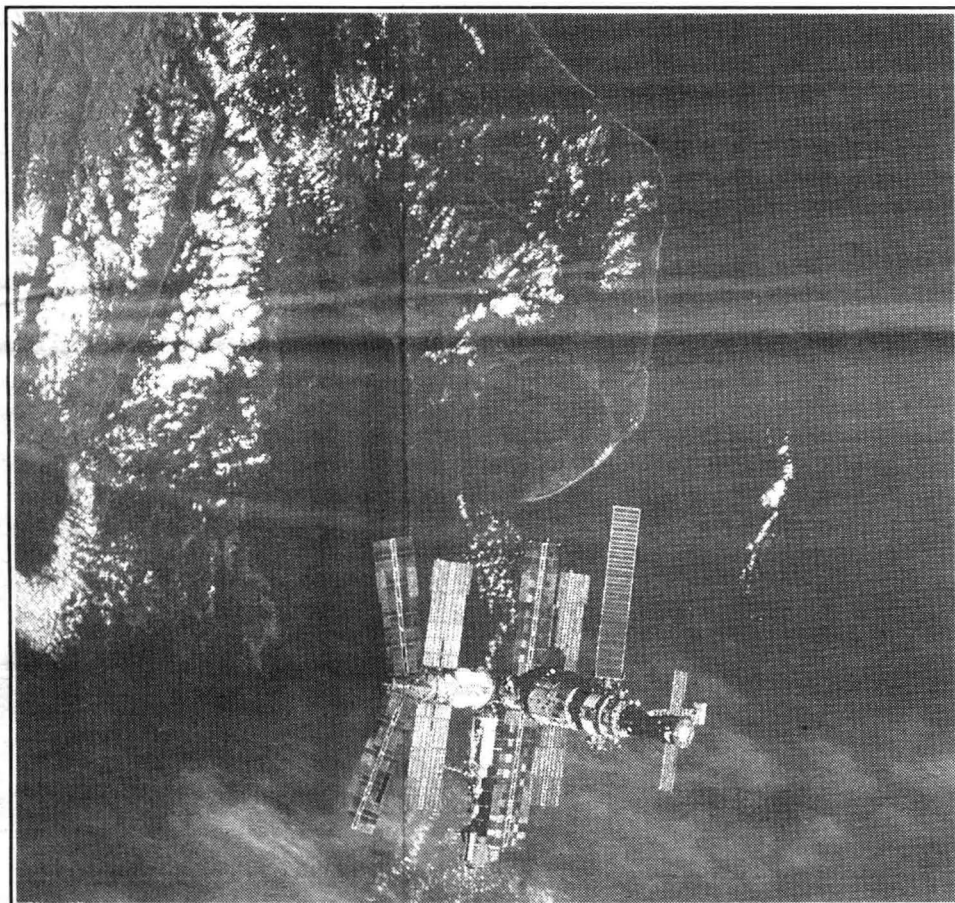
• For what it may be worth, the commercial for H.I.S. Jeans in which I played a bum in a box car won a CLIO (the commercial industry's equivalent to the movies' OSCAR) for best cinematography. It was heard on the set that the British director knew what he was doing and paid great attention to detail. It would seem so. And, to answer a sometimes-asked question, no, I do not get any residuals. Just one day's filming pay.

Here's How it Looks up There



This photo, taken March 23, 1996, shows the Space Shuttle Atlantis backdropped against a "floor" of clouds. The photo was taken by the two Mir-21 cosmonaut crew members onboard Russia's Mir Space Station during rendezvous and docking operations. Part of a solar panel array connected to the Mir is seen in the foreground. The Orbiter Docking System (ODS), can be seen in Atlantis' cargo bay.

- NASA photo



Backdropped against the waters of Cook Strait near New Zealand's South Island, Russia's Mir Space Station is seen from the aft flight deck of the Space Shuttle Atlantis. The two spacecraft were in the process of making their third docking in earth orbit.

- NASA photo

June Brings Amateur Radio Week

June 16-23 is Amateur Radio Week! This annual event is an excellent opportunity to create public awareness, generate media interest and of course, publicize the culminating event: Field Day! Setting up demonstrations, giving talks, or having your town mayor or state governor proclaim the week are just some of the activities hams typically do leading up to Field Day. Letting people know what the hobby is all about and the valuable service hams provide in times of disaster is the name of the game, and it's not too late to get started. To get your Amateur Radio Week/Field Day publicity kit, call ARRL's Public Relations department at 860-594-0328 or send e-mail to jhagy@arrl.org.

- The ARRL Letter, 4/19/96



SSB
SELL SWAP BUY

OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

FOR SALE: 1. PK-88 Packet Controller. 2. Hy Gain TH3-MK3 Thunderbird 3-element tri-band, 10, 15, and 20 meters. 3. Hy Gain Model 2BDQ 1/2 wave trap doublet antenna. 4. Kenwood TM701A 144/440 MHz dual-band. 5. 10 meter rotatable dipole. KE9WO, (414) 564-3955, ask for Don.

THERE IS NO CHARGE to list ads in Sell, Swap, Buy. You may send your ad (no phone calls, please!) to either Jim Romelfanger, 412 1/2 Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913, or to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Please be sure your ad is readable!

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.



Steve Hart, KA9OMC, Secretary



E616 810th Avenue

Knapp, WI 54749

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

Greetings RCRA sponsors and guests,

Our last get together was held on March 26th in Menomonie. The following were in attendance:

N9TOW Doug Farrell
KA9PVY Ken Reetz
KB9MMT Jeff Wait and Terry
W9VAJ Jim Humphrey
KA9OMC Steve Hart
N9TTV Glenn Thompson
KE6PZC Scott Kilde
N9LIJ Jim Fitzl
KB9MAU Judy Holtzman
N9PPE Jeff Cole
KB9NGE Todd Holtzman
N9WJY Rod Steele

Balance on the account was \$1253.03. Financial statements were handed out along with bulletins provided by KF9CU, Arlene Kraft.

W9VAJ, Jim, gave us a report on the church in Nicaragua that he had just returned from. According to Jim, services are being held and the benches are being built out of the local mahogany trees.

KB9MMT, Jeff, has constructed the "2 meter tree antenna" that was featured in last month's 73 magazine. Apparently he is able to use the Eau Claire repeaters from his QTH in Menomonie with this tree loaded up as an antenna.

KA9PVY, Ken, says he has programs for plotting antenna patterns and he and KE6PZC, Scott, were discussing their knowledge on this subject. Scott is also looking to upgrade soon. Good luck.

KB9NGE, Todd, reported that he had just passed his no-code Technician class and showed us his Standard 2 meter HT.

N9JWY, Rod, mentioned that there were at least 20 new hams licensed in the Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls area as a result of the "Mission Eau Claire" project of which his son Ryan, received his ticket. Ryan's call is KB9NFN. Rod was also one of the exam volunteers.

Door prizes were donated by WB9-PMF, Tim Rose, and NQ9X, Ed Van Sickle.

Please make welcome new amateurs:

KB9MSI, Mary Schneider, Plum City
N9RVK, Ken Anderson, Chippewa Falls
KB9NCV, Julie Wiskow, Arcadia
KB9NGE, Todd Holtzman, Connorsville
KB9NFG, Heather Dick, Eau Claire
KB9NFN, Ryan Steele, Chippewa Falls

Get wells go out to KB9MAU, Judy, and WB9OKQ, Lyle, who both had surgery. Sorry to report that W5NKT, Ken Fosgate, from the "North Star Traders", is back in the hospital. KD0YX, Tim, at West Fargo is picking up the net for now.

NX9F, Jim Ley, was getting a list of volunteers for the Menomonie version of the "Mission Eau Claire" to be held at River Heights school on April 18th and 19th.

Question? Why doesn't electricity behave himself?

Answer. He doesn't know how to conduct himself.

Remember to have a safe and fun summer and to keep in touch as our Smoke Signals article needs good gossip.

73,
RCRA Secretary/Treasurer
KA9OMC Steve Hart

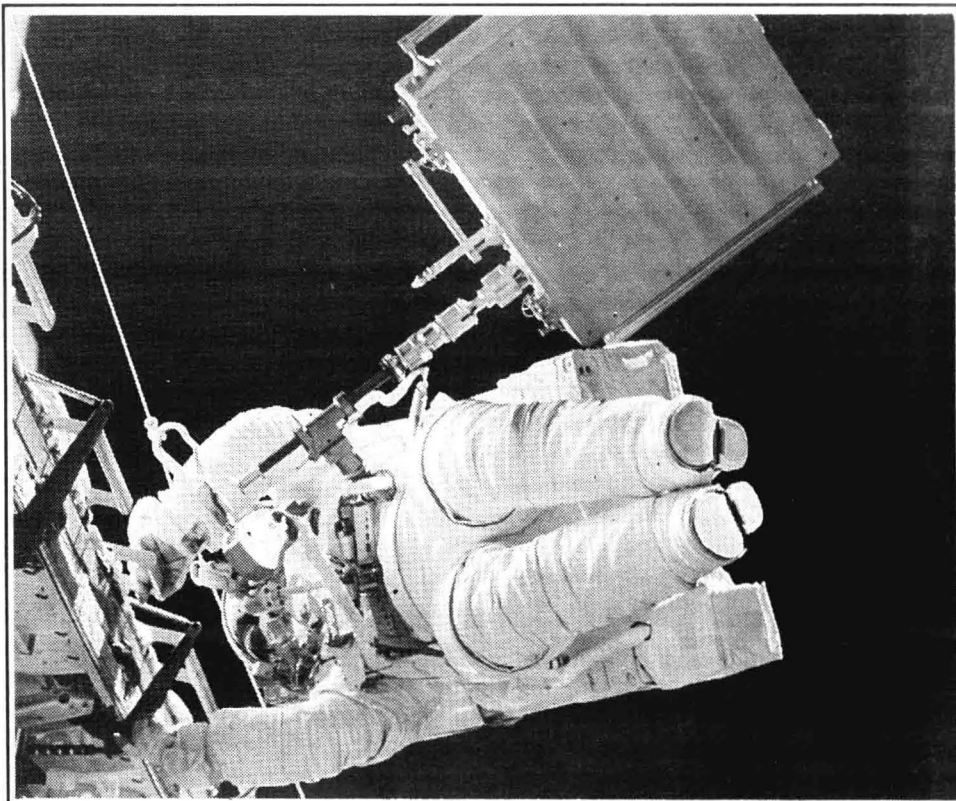


SHEBOYGAN
County Amateur Radio Club

Mike Musiel, KF9SJ, Secretary
N9001 Dairyland Rd., Cleveland, WI 53015

At press time, no material for publication had been received from the Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club.

Toting the MEEP



Toting the Mir Environmental Effects Payload (MEEP), astronaut Linda M. Godwin, mission specialist, translates along the longeron of the Space Shuttle Atlantis' cargo bay starboard side during the March 27, 1996 STS-76 EVA (extra-vehicular activity, sometimes referred to as a "spacewalk"). During the docked phase of the mission, astronauts Godwin and Michael R (Rich) Clifford teamed to mount the MEEP experiments on Russia's Mir Space Station Docking Module (DM). The experiments will collect micrometeoroid debris for more than a year. The MEEP experiments will be removed from the DM by United States astronauts on a future docking mission and returned to Earth.

- NASA photo

THE TEST POINT

(continued from page 3)

CEDARBURG, WI - ORC HAMFEST
 EAU CLAIRE, WI - ECARC HAMFEST
 GREEN BAY, WI - ARES HAMFEST
 KAUKAUNA, WI - SWAPFEST
 MANITOWOC, WI, LAKESHORE HAMFEST
 MARSHFIELD, WI - HAMFEST
 OAK CREEK, WI - SMARC HAMFEST
 RACINE, WI - RACINE HAMFEST
 RHINELANDER, WI - NWARC SWAPFEST
 ROCKFORD, IL - RARC HAMFEST
 ROTHSCHILD, WI - WVRA HAMFEST
 SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI - SMARC HAMFEST
 STEVENS POINT, WI - CWRA SWAPFEST
 WAUKESHA, WI - KMRA SWAPFEST
 WAUKESHA, WI - MIDWINTER SWAPFEST
 DUBUQUE, IA - HAMFEST

See the Swapfest column for additional information and contact persons.

LOVES PARK, IL

Third Saturday of every month. Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC). Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. Contact: Dennis G. Eksten, W9SS, (815) 877-6768.

MINNESOTA TEST INFORMATION

From the March 1996 edition of "The Ground Wave", Saint Paul Radio Club.

Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC)

Contact: Jay Bellows, K0QBE (612) 222-7253

Test Site: St. Paul Technical College

235 Marshall Ave.

St Paul, MN

TESTING: First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m.

Anoka Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

Contact: Art Mundy, W0FYX, (612) 571-7441

Test Site: Blaine City Hall

9150 Central Ave NE

Blaine, MN

TESTING: Second Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Bloomington Amateur Radio Club (BARC)

Contact: Dan Royer, KE0OR (612) 888-9756

Test Site: Creekside Community Center

98th & Penn Avenue S

Bloomington, MN

TESTING: Second Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Valley Amateur Radio Club (VARC)

Contact: Paul Ramey, W0G0 (612) 432-1640

Test Site: Hayes Community Center

14601 Hayes Road

Apple Valley, MN

TESTING: Second Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m.

W5YI

Contact: Dave Ranney, N0AXL (612) 933-2182

Test Site: Eden Prairie Library

479 Eden Prairie Drive

Eden Prairie, MN

TESTING: Third Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m.

SE Metro Area Radio Club (SEMARC)

Contact: Dave Harrell, N0IPN (612) 459-8678

Test Site: Cottage Grove fire Station

8641 80th ST., S

Cottage Grove, MN

TESTING: Third Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

The above information has been furnished by the various VEs. However, it is suggested that you confirm time, date and location BEFORE you make the trip to the test site. Occasionally, a test may be canceled and/or dates and locations changed. A phone call could save you some grief and a wasted trip.

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to K9EN at the address shown on page 2.



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
 K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary
 450 West 2nd Street • Reedsburg, WI 53959



The April 16, 1996 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc., was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by club president, Steve Schulze, N9UDO.

The minutes of the last meeting as published in the BSSS were accepted. There was no financial report.

OLD BUSINESS: The club's new banner was displayed. It was obtained just prior to the Youth Opportunity Day event and was unveiled at the club's table. Bill Hommel, KA9QFJ and Jim Paul, N9LKY were both there and reported attendance/interest was down from previous years. The banner was made by the Sign shop in Baraboo at a cost of \$125.00. Steve indicated a reminder letter would be sent to members who have not yet paid this year's dues, prompting one member present to pay immediately and another who said he would.

NEW BUSINESS: Members discussed the recent MARA swapfest and Steve wondered if the club wanted to have one. The idea was tossed around and it was decided to wait and see how the hamfest in Adams county did. The club made \$26.00 at their table at the MARA swapfest. A special thank you goes to Harley Vodak for his donation of equipment that the club then sold at the swapfest. Bill Hommel mentioned that the Baraboo School was giving way surplus computer supplies and he agreed to take them from the school (it was a take all or nothing deal) for the club. Announcements included novice net on 3723 at 1800 hours, Six Meter Club of Chicago's hamfest June 30th, Circus Heritage days Saturday May 18 at the Sauk County Fairgrounds, Field day June 22-23.

LICENSE EXAM WILL BE GIVEN TUESDAY MAY 14, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. at the Baraboo Civic Center, Room 14.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. Buck night winner was Harry Mayland who did not make it to the meeting from his residence in Palo Alto, California. The rule is you must be present to win.

***** FOX HUNT *****

The next meeting will be a fox hunt on Wednesday May 15, 1996 gathering in the parking lot at 6:00 p.m. and starting at 6:30. Club meeting follows the hunt in room 19 at the Baraboo Civic Center.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary

The following members and guests were present:

Steve Schulze	N9UDO	Baraboo
Jim Paul	N9LKY	Merrimac
Jim Decker	WB9UQT	Baraboo
Bill Klinkner	N9KXX	Sauk City
Raymond Matlosz	N9MLZ	Reedsburg
Bob Baker	KB9LAZ	LaValle
Dave Spearing	KB9CSW	Portage
Bill Hommel	KA9QFT	Baraboo
Wayne Burgess	N9UDX	Madison
Jack Kirner	N9LKL	Prairie du Sac
Steve Schwoegler	WB9RNL	Wisconsin Dells
Fred Schraeder		Adams
Leonard Wagner	WB9UQT	Baraboo
Duane Grotophorst	KA9HKL	Loganville

Weyauwega Wrapup

By Jeffery Ramlow, N9WVR
 Emergency Coordinator, Waupaca County

The Waupaca County Amateur Radio Emergency Service was activated at the request of the Division of Emergency Government in Madison and the American Red Cross. We provided emergency communications to both organizations.

The American Red Cross provided us with location to set up our Net Control Station. We provided Amateur Radio operators for their Emergency Shelter Operations. This consisted of two locations in addition to the Net Control Station. The first shelter was manned 24 hours a day by at least one Amateur Radio Operator. The second shelter was actually a registration location which ran from approximately 9am till 6pm every day. The second location was also designated as an overflow shelter. Fortunately, it was not needed for that activity.

The DEG (Division of Emergency Government) in Madison had requested operators at three locations in and around the City of Weyauwega. The first location was at their Incident Command Post at the edge of the City limits. The second location was at their Staging Area which was located at the edge of the evacuation zone. The final location was in the City of Freemont at the local Fire Department.

Because of the number of areas that needed to be covered, and the duration of this event, we were fortunate to have many Amateur Radio Operators from other counties assist us in manning the above locations. We had over 90 people come to our aid from over 20 different counties. We even had a number from out of state. We are estimating over 780 man hours were put in by Amateur Radio Operators. This estimated number does not include the amount of travel time that people were putting in to get to Waupaca. Actually, the travel times were quite high considering the number of miles most of the operators had to travel just to get to Waupaca, not to mention all the detouring that was being made because of the disaster itself. On an average, I'd say that most

operators took around an hour and a half to get to Waupaca, and another hour and a half to get home.

Our primary objective as to provide communications in case the situation escalated and caused a disruption of the normal communications in the area. This was a very real possibility and our placement of people was critical. Fortunately, the situation did not escalate to this level. Our secondary objective was to provide communications during the situation when needed. Due to the large number of volunteers, law enforcement, specialists, news personnel, and the general public, cellular systems were being peaked out. Many times, people just couldn't use the existing cellular services due to the high amount of traffic.

This disaster was unique in the fact that an evacuation zone was erected quite quickly and the danger of personal injury was lowered. I wouldn't want to even guess how many people made the comments to me regarding the fact that they were gaining a considerable amount of experience with this situation. I know that, even with the training that we've done in the past, there are always things that can be learned during an event of this magnitude. The amount of information gained by the operators was, in my opinion, substantial, and the only injury encountered was that of a dual band mobile radio at the Net Control Station. I understand that radio has been fixed, and the radio and owner are now doing fine.

In closing, I would like to thank all the Amateur Radio Operators who assisted during this situation, both in person, and in the volunteering of equipment. Without this help, we never could have provided what we did, for as long as we did. Your help was appreciated by all.

(Editor's note: Beverly Grant, WB9ZBS, Oxford, called to tell BSSS that the Green Fox Amateur Radio Club's repeater was used as a communications link between the disaster area and the Department of Emergency Government in Madison.)

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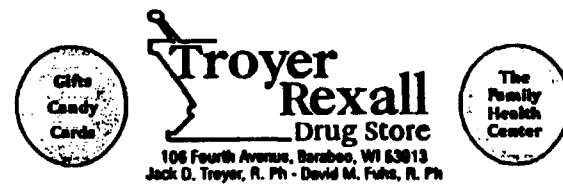


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SWAPFESTS



1995 WINNERS
Timothy J. Czerwinski, W09U, Chetek
Steven D. Miller, KB9DFE, Spooner
Karen M. Schneider, N9SVA, Appleton

25th ANNUAL MIDWINTER SWAPFEST

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July 13, 1996

(Held every July)

American Legion Park

Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI

(414) 762-3235 Extension 58
P. O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Fox Cities Hamfest

Sunday, November 3, 1996

Starlite Club, Hwy. 55 north of Kaukana

HAMFEST INFO:
Chad Pennings, N9PRC
318 E. Brewster St.
Appleton, WI 54911
(414) 759-0799

EXAM INFO:
Larry Siebers, KD9IA
(414) 759-1167

Lakeshore Hamfest and Computer Swapfest

Manitowoc County Expo

Intersection of Hwys. 42-151 and I-43 on Cty. Hwy. R

Saturday, May 11, 1996

For more information, call:

Glenn, AA9MT: 414-684-7096

Red, N9GHE: 414-684-9097 (nights)

ManCoRad Radio Club • P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204

HAMFEST & COMPUTER EXPO

ANTIQUE RADIO SHOW
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1996

8 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

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1520 NAKOMIS AVE., LA CROSSE, WI 54603

19th Annual CWRA Swapfest

Sunday, June 9, 1996

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

UNIVERSITY CENTER, U.W. STEVENS POINT

Info: John Kalina, KA9DJA
1240 North Point Drive

(715) 342-9714
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club SWAPFEST

Saturday, July 27, 1996

Eau Claire County
Fairgrounds

Intersection of Highways 93 and I-94

Carol Ceraso • (715) 723-9205 Liz Searing • (715) 834-1303
P.O. Box 1867 • Eau Claire, WI 54701

RACINE HAMFEST 96 Sunday, July 28, 1996

8 A.M. - 2 P.M.

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Ozaukee Radio Club 18TH ANNUAL RADIO AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST Saturday, May 4, 1996

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center
Intersection of Highway 60 and County I
Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno,
5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222
Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club
11448 N. Laguna Drive • Mequon, WI 53092

Kettle Moraine Radio Amateurs SWAPFEST

Sunday, October 13, 1996

Waukesha County Expo Center

Info: KMRA Swapfest P. O. Box 411
Waukesha, WI 53187-0411

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

AUCTION

February 25, 1997 • 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Post 53 • 634 Water Street
Eau Claire, WI

CONTACT:

Steve Hart, KA9OMC
E616 810th Ave.

715-665-2374
Knapp, WI 54749

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